Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-239
Tuesday
13 December 1994

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-239 *13 December 1994*

CONTENTS

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Yarov Appointed Chairman of CIS Economic Committee *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Paper Views 9 Dec Government Heads Council Session *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 10 Dec]* 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

NATO Seen Exploiting Russian Policy 'Sluggishness' *[PRAVDA 10 Dec]* 2
Kozyrev: NATO Expansion Does Not Belittle CSCE Decisions *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Kozyrev Views Russian-U.S. Dialogue *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
U.S. Blamed for 'Cold Peace' in Europe *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Dec]* 3
Chechnya Forces Chernomyrdin To Postpone Georgian Visit
[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY 12 Dec] 4
200 Ukrainians, 10 Crimeans 'Assist' Chechnya President *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Foreign Policy 'Incompetence' Decried *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 10 Dec]* 4
Kazakhstan: Presidents Sign Treaty on Protecting CIS Border *[IZVESTIYA]* 9
Kozyrev's Walkout Seen as 'Symbolic Gesture' *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 13 Dec]* 9
Moldova's Sangheli Signs 'Most' CIS Agreements in Moscow *[BASAPRESS]* 10
Foreign Ministry Demands Tajik Opposition Stop Provocations *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
AFP Correspondent Sees Villagers Confronting Army Major *[AFP]* 11
U.S. Experts Inspect Former Chemical Weapons Facility *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Vice President Gore To Discuss Space Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 12

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Enjoys Post-Operation 'Progress' *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Illness 'Not Strategic' *[Moscow TV]* 13
Kalmykov Cites Chechnya as Cause for Resignation *[PRAVDA 10 Dec]* 13
Communist Leader on Restoration of 'Union' *[PRAVDA 10 Dec]* 14
Officials Discuss Chechnya Policy *[Moscow TV]* 16
Chernomyrdin Stresses Need for Chechnya Decree *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Describes Situation as 'Complex' *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Duma Deputy Opposes Use of Force *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Kozyrev Warns Chechens Against Agression *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Notes 'Use Force To Restore Order' *[INTERFAX]* 18
Working Group Agrees on Disarmament *[Moscow Radio]* 18
Rybkin Hopes for Avoidance of Force *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Troops in Chechen Have 'No Shoot' Orders *[Moscow TV]* 19
Medical Unit Provides Casualty Report *[ITAR-TASS]* 19

Economic Issues

Davydov Discusses Investment Policy *[PRAVDA 10 Dec]* 19
Duma Deputy on "Realistic" 1995 Budget Proposal *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 10 Dec]* 20

Military & Space Issues

Budget Cuts Endanger Manned Space Program *[TRUD 10 Dec]* 21
New Booster Solves Launch Problem *[Moscow TV]* 23

Federal Assembly

Duma Backs Yeltsin Decree on Chechen Arms Surrender *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Chechnya: Tank Columns Reportedly Blocked *[Moscow Radio]* 24
Federation Council To Convene Emergency Sitting *[Moscow Radio]* 24
Votes Down Law on Media Support *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 10 Dec]* 24
Shumeyko Address on Army Funding Cited *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Dec]* 24

Regional Affairs

Continuing Reportage on Unrest in the Chechen Republic 25
Chechen Minister Claims Russian Tank Columns Stopped *[TURAN]* 25
Official Reaffirms Readiness for Peace *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Information Center Says War Not Declared by Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Russian Units Occupy 2 Chechen Rayons *[Moscow Radio]* 26
Russian Troops Ordered To Fire Back on Attackers *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Chechen Opposition Creates No Problems for Russian Troops *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Casualties Reported in First Clashes in Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Komi Officials Send Away UN Inspectors *[Moscow Radio]* 27
Troops' Purpose is To Disarm Combatants *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Chechens Say Russian Planes Fire Rockets, Drop Bombs *[INTERFAX]* 28
Russian Advance Guard 25-30 Km From Groznyy *[INTERFAX]* 28
Russian Column Crosses Chechen Border Near Assinskaya *[INTERFAX]* 28
Chechen People's Congress May Extend Dudayev's Mandate *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Officials Discuss Chechen Situation *[London TV]* 28
Groznyy Talks: Disarmament Conditioned to Russian Pullout *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Russian Troops Ordered to Blockade Groznyy *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Advancing Columns Stopped by Dudayev Forces *[INTERFAX]* 30
Chechen Defense Forces Fire on Russian Overflights *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Chechen Press Minister: 70 Russians Killed, 40 Wounded *[Moscow TV]* 31
Dudayev Ready for Referendum, Elections if Troops Leave *[Russian TV]* 31
Russian, Chechen Delegation Leaders Comment on Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
70 Russian Soldiers Killed in Chechen Clashes *[Moscow TV]* 31
Russians Troops Begin Offensive on Groznyy From Ingushetia *[Moscow Radio]* 31
Talks Continue With Chechen Republic Delegation *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Six Russian Servicemen Killed in Chechen Missile Attack *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Interior, Defense Ministry Troops Repulse Dudayev Attacks *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Clashes Continue North of Groznyy; 5,000 Troops Advance *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Disagreements Continue in Chechen Talks *[Radio Rossii]* 32
Chernomyrdin on Chechnya Intervention 33

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kiev: Chechen 'Russia's Internal Affair' *[UNIAR]* 34
Moroz on International Role *[UNIAN]* 34
Rukh Condemns Russian Actions *[UNIAR]* 34
'Intervention' Protested *[UNIAR]* 34
Protest Rally Held *[Kiev International]* 34
Turkmen Promise To Resume Gas Supplies *[UNIAN]* 34
Kiev, Romanians Hold Military Discussions *[Kiev TV]* 35
Moroz, Albanian President Discuss Relations *[UNIAN]* 35

National Affairs

Kuchma Signs Monetary Reform Edict *[UNIAN]* 35
Rallies Continue Against Price Liberation *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 6 Dec]* 36
Kuchma Fires 2 Fuel Officials *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Coal Reserves Seen as 'Catastrophic' *[DONETSKIY KRYAZH 8 Dec]* 36
Kharkov Council on 'Harsh' Energy Conservation *[VREMYA 3 Dec]* 36

Crimean Energy Situation Seen 'Critical' *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 10 Dec]* 37
Commission Looks at Miners' Grievances *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 3 Dec]* 37
Strike Ends Due To Commission Set-Up *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 9 Dec]* 38
Moroz Proposes BSF 'Collective Security' *[UNIAN]* 38

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Popular Front Condemns Russia for 'Events in Chechnya' *[Minsk Radio]* 39
Democratic Party Criticizes Electoral Law Amendments *[Minsk Radio]* 39
Reasons for Establishing Customs Union With Russia Viewed *[ZVYAZDA 9 Dec]* 39

Moldova

Dniester Status Negotiating Parties 'Satisfied' Over Talks *[BASAPRESS]* 40
CSCE Minority Commissioner Opposes Gagauz Autonomy *[BASAPRESS]* 40
Socialists Criticize Law on Local Self-Administration *[BASAPRESS]* 40
Russia To Reduce Natural Gas Prices for Chisinau *[BASAPRESS]* 41

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Almaty Fears Chechen Conflict May Spread *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Sobolev on Economic Trends, Prospects *[Almaty TV]* 42

Kyrgyzstan

Prime Minister Attends Islamic Conference Forum *[Kyrgyz Radio]* 42
Akayev Signs Range of Accords With Pakistan *[Bishkek Radio]* 42
Foreign Minister Signs Accords in London *[Bishkek Radio]* 42
Akayev Decrees Local Elections for 5 Feb *[Bishkek Radio]* 43
Akayev Criticizes 1995 Budget
[SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA (DELOVOY CHETVERG supplement) 8 Dec] 43
Government Says Privatization Situation 'Uneven' *[Bishkek Radio]* 45

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Attends Islamic Summit in Casablanca *[Dushanbe Radio]* 45
Prime Minister Seeks Economic Support in Russia *[Dushanbe Radio]* 45

Turkmenistan

President Receives BBC Monitoring Official *[TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA]* 45
Niyazov Justifies Wary View of CIS *[TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA 8 Dec]* 46
High Turnout Noted in Parliamentary Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Results of Parliamentary Elections Summed Up *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Ashgabat Joins Islamic Development Bank *[TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA 2 Dec]* 47
Telecommunications Plan to Year 2004 Presented *[TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA 8 Dec]* 47

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Economic Ties Discussed With Iranian Envoy *[Yerevan International]* 48
Karabakh Official Hails CSCE Decision on Peace Keepers *[NOYAN TAPAN]* 48
Karabakh Official Discusses Development, Infrastructure *[NOYAN TAPAN]* 48
MP's Protest Arrest of Member of ARF *[NOYAN TAPAN]* 48
Foreign Credits Cited, Improved Economy Predicted *[NOYAN TAPAN]* 49

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Comments Before Attending Casablanca Conference *[Baku TV]* 49
Leaves for Islamic Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Defense Ministry Denies Involvement in Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Chechen Minister Describes Fighting *[TURAN]* 50
Religious Council Condemns Russian Intervention in Chechnya *[Baku TV]* 50
Popular Front Pickets Russian Embassy *[TURAN]* 50

Georgia

Shevardnadze Regular Radio Interview *[Tbilisi Radio]* 51
'Important Information' Obtained on Chanturia's Killing *[Tbilisi Radio]* 53
Three Parties To Form 'Coordination Center' *[THE GEORGIAN TIMES 5 Dec]* 53
United Republican Party Outlines Conditions for Cooperation *[SAKARTVELO 20-25 Nov]* 54

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

U.S. Legation To Discuss Interior Ministry Aid *[Tallinn Radio]* 55
Meri Reaffirms Stand on Treaty With Russia *[BNS]* 55
President on Chechen, 'Unfruitful' CSCE Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Political Reactions *[BNS]* 55
Social Democratic Party Elects New Chairman *[Tallinn Radio]* 56

Latvia

Gailis, Belgian FM Discuss Integration Into Europe *[Riga Radio]* 56
Belgian Foreign Minister Denied Access to Russian Base *[Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD]* ... 57
Foreign Ministry Concerned Over Chechnya *[Riga Radio]* 57
Counterfeit Currency Seized in Operation *[LETA]* 57

Lithuania

Belgian Foreign Minister Arrives on Official Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Peaceful Settlement Urged in Chechnya Conflict *[Vilnius International]* 57
Gylys Notes Concern Over Chechnya *[BNS]* 58
Mass Meeting Supports Chechen People *[Vilnius Radio]* 58

Yarov Appointed Chairman of CIS Economic Committee

LD0912141394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Storch and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—A regular meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State has nominated Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov as board chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee (IEC) of the CIS economic union.

CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya told a news conference that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had had separate discussions of the nomination with each CIS prime minister, and Yarov is expected to take the post in a week.

Korotchenya said Yarov's appointment was in fact decided, although it required formal approval from the CIS Council of Prime Ministers which is to meet in Alma-Ata [Almaty] in end-December. Korotchenya also said Russia's nominee got good acceptance from all delegations. In addition, some of CIS premiers had been entitled to endorse the appointment of the IEC board chairman already at this meeting. To assume chairmanship, Yarov will step down as Russian deputy prime minister for social affairs.

The board of the Interstate Economic Committee, the CIS' body with coordinating and executive functions, will handle CIS-wide affairs like rail links, power, price formation. The IEC will also generate guidelines for economic integration of the CIS.

Today's meeting has also passed final decisions on membership and funding of the IEC board.

Paper Views 9 Dec Government Heads Council Session

MM1212164594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Aleksandr Shinkin: "On Paths of Integration. Session of Council of CIS Government Heads Took Place in Moscow Yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is already their third meeting. Some 65 agreements were examined and adopted at the previous two. They included 38 on questions of commercial and economic cooperation.

"The most important thing both today and in 1995," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at the open session, "is the practical substance of the agreements already concluded. I refer first and foremost to joint investment activities, a coordinated antimonopoly policy, the general terms and mechanism for supporting coproduction, and the promotion of the formation of transnational production, credit and financial, and insurance structures."

The CIS countries' economies, as V. Chernomyrdin pointed out in his speech, are still in a state of crisis. According to forecasts based on figures from the statistical services, the Commonwealth states' GDP's in 1994 will as a whole decrease by 16 percent. The volume of industrial production will fall 23 percent and gross agricultural output almost 10 percent.

Trade turnover among the CIS countries is falling in comparable prices. As calculations show, it decreased in 1991 by 28 points, in 1992 by 18 points, and in 1993 by 17. Trade turnover in 1994 has barely exceeded a third of its 1990 volume.

The current session of the Council of Government Heads has to a certain degree been convened to resolve these and other problems. About 20 question have been placed on the agenda. The majority of them concern the implementation of the treaty on the formation of a CIS economic union. They include the fundamentals of customs legislation for the Commonwealth countries and a single methodology for customs statistics, based on international practice.

The conference participants also examined trade turnover and coproduction in the field of machine building. This document gives ministries and departments the right to conclude with the consent of enterprises annual agreements "On Trade Turnover in Machine Building Output, Including Raw Materials, Materials, and Subassemblies, on a Reciprocal Basis." Deliveries under these treaties are exempt from duty, excise, and tax.

Agreements on cooperation in the area of labor protection and the formation of an interstate assistance fund for refugees and displaced persons have been included in the package of documents on social problems.

There was examination of documents concerning the formation of a distinctive corps of "rapid response" forces for accidents and catastrophes, which are still frequent occurrences on the expanses of the Commonwealth. Specialized national emergency-rescue units should form part of the corps.

In connection with the 50th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the participants in the Council of Government Heads session examined an agreement on instituting additional concessions and material assistance for veterans of this war. A CIS sports festival will commemorate this important event, and a jubilee medal will also be issued.

The session's participants unanimously recommended Russian Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov for the post of Interstate Economic Committee Collegium chairman.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

NATO Seen Exploiting Russian Policy 'Sluggishness'

MM1212133794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Vladas Bikulicius: "They Attack on NATO's Prompting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vilnius—Fuel has been added to the fire of discussion on Lithuania's entry to NATO following a Lithuanian delegation's visit to New York, where a regular session of the Atlantic Assembly has been taking place. On their return the delegation members informed the local population that questions pertaining to the expansion of NATO and ways of fulfilling the "Partnership for Peace" program were the main topic of the session. A schedule specifying an order of priority for new states' entry into the NATO system was also announced: It covers the countries of the Visegrad Group—the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary—over the next two to five years, followed by Lithuania.

Among the members of the North Atlantic bloc a distinctive lobby group has already formed in favor of accepting Lithuania into its ranks, and it is well known. It consist of Denmark and Norway, whose official representatives never tire of canvassing public opinion during private trips.

Local politicians evaluate the possible consequences of such a step variously. For the right wing everything is clear—Lithuania's security in the face of a "threat" from its eastern neighbor would be guaranteed. The Lithuanian Army commander believes that Lithuania's historical neutrality has not been vindicated (as if a possible alliance with Germany on the eve of September 1939 would have made a Switzerland out of Lithuania!). The general is even convinced that membership of NATO would help to stabilize the domestic situation in Lithuania. The liberals realize that such a step in conjunction with the other Baltic region countries would drastically complicate their relations with Russia, leading to its isolation and spoiling the "democratic" nature of the reforms being conducted here.

The fairly sharp reaction of the Russian delegation at the assembly in, as we know, opposing the accelerated expansion of NATO, did not affect the session's concluding decision to strive for the broadest possible expansion of the bloc over the next two to five years. But then the West has perceived the sluggishness and inconsistency of Russian foreign policy.

Will the Baltic region show discretion? A resolution was adopted at the Baltic Assembly session held recently in Vilnius, the thrust of which is that the Kaliningrad "problem" should be settled at a kind of "roundtable" and questions pertaining to the demilitarization of the oblast must be discussed at international level. After three sharp statements by the Russian side on the subject of the assembly's decisions, a Lithuanian Seimas member from the ruling party proposed issuing a statement acknowledging Russia's right to Kaliningrad and Kaliningrad Oblast. However, this decision was not supported in the Seimas International Affairs Committee, whose chairman declared right out that Western military experts are advising the Lithuanians not to fear sharp statements from Russian diplomats.

Kozyrev: NATO Expansion Does Not Belittle CSCE Decisions

LD1212200294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1914 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—Disagreement over the NATO expansion plans do not belittle the importance of the steps taken at the CSCE summit meeting in Budapest, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

Meeting journalists on Monday, Kozyrev expressed regret that public attention has been drawn not to the key documents adopted at the summit meeting, but to the "difficulties of partnership" between Russia and the West, which he believes, "will be overcome."

Among the key decisions Kozyrev named the idea of reorganising the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) into an effective international organisation. "Nothing can be achieved overnight, but in Budapest very substantial documents were adopted and steps were taken to make the European security conference a more effective structure," he added.

Russia wants the CSCE decisions to be not only politically, but also legally binding. This is especially important for peace- keeping operations which involve thousands of troops, he said.

Despite initial disagreements, the participants in the Budapest summit meeting adopted a "substantial document" on the Nagorno- Karabakh conflict, Kozyrev continued. It recognises Russia's peace- keeping role and establishes a "form of cooperation" between Russia and the CSCE in settling the conflict.

The CSCE conference also adopted a code of conduct, which allows member countries to use force to restore constitutional order if it cannot be restored by security forces.

Kozyrev Views Russian-U.S. Dialogue

LD1212160494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1501 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Dec—The Russian foreign minister said today that the present stage in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russian-U.S. dialogue "should not be dramatized" since both Russia and the United States "firmly adhere to the concept of partnership." Asked by ITAR-TASS what he expects from this week's visits to Moscow by U.S. Vice President Albert Gore and Defense Secretary William Perry, Kozyrev said, however, that "the conversation will be quite difficult in a number of instances."

He pointed out: Russia has national-state interests which must be "guaranteed and taken into consideration when solving such questions as the architecture of Europe." "We are not claiming a veto on, say, what NATO does, but we do not like to be ignored. Russia is a part of Europe, a great power in Europe, and we have immense interests. That is perfectly natural," he pointed out.

According to the minister, he would "neither diminish nor exaggerate" "the fact that the "sides have occasion to quarrel, and sometimes rather bitterly." "There is no need to think that this is some kind of 'cold war' or a complete volte-face," he warned. "Nothing of the kind, it is all within the framework of partnership between democratic governments."

"We are united by one and the same democratic values and a firm adherence to the concept of partnership, which no-one disputes," Andrey Kozyrev stressed.

U.S. Blamed for 'Cold Peace' in Europe

MM1212164994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Golts under the "Topic of the Week" rubric: "Has 'Cold Peace' Set In in December?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fairly cynical idea that "when nations are strong they are not always just, and when they are just, they are frequently no longer very strong," belongs to Churchill. It would be too sad to consider this an axiom. But, one way or another, Moscow was persuaded of its truth this week: Both in Chechnya, where we are trying to find the necessary balance between justice and strength, and in Budapest, where the CSCE summit was being held. As far as Chechnya is concerned, the crisis is reaching culmination point. To be honest, now that the main political statements have been made, I am pinning most hopes on the "diplomacy of the generals" at whom so many critical shafts have been launched in the past few days. They, Pavel Grachev and Dzhokhar Dudayev, professional soldiers who are perfectly well aware of what a direct military clash could lead to, are the ones who can defuse the situation and arrive at a reasonable, mutually acceptable decision.

The question of force and justice also inevitably arises when analyzing what happened in Budapest. It is perfectly clear that the meeting of fifty state leaders did not justify the hopes that had been pinned on it. Yes, the CSCE has started being called the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE]. Yes, a number of ideas whose implementation is undoubtedly capable of reinforcing stability on the continent were approved in principle. But the most important, decisive steps for creating an effective security structure on the European continent were not taken. Furthermore, the conceptual dispute about what the basis of this structure should be—the OSCE itself or NATO—has led to a situation whereby perhaps for the first time in recent years differences between Moscow and Washington have been stated so clearly and openly.

Differences which have not been resolved, and, I fear, will not be resolved in the near future. It is enough to look at the text of the Russian and American presidents' speeches to see that they adhere to different, not to say diametrically opposed views on the most important problems of European security. And they only coincide on one thing. Yeltsin: "It is a dangerous illusion to think that the destinies of continents and the world community as a whole can be controlled from one particular capital." Clinton: "No country will have a veto." And Yeltsin obviously means Washington, while Clinton means Russia.

So that the "cold peace" which Boris Yeltsin spoke of seems to have set in already. And Russia's only fault is that for too long we have been abandoning ourselves to illusions about how wonderfully the partnership will develop if Russia's position is "just," and if it takes the United States' real interests into account. But it soon became clear that Washington by no means always takes even American interests into account in its specific policy, never mind Russian interests.

Let us take the most painful question: the expansion of NATO. Even a year ago, bringing Moscow the idea of "Partnership for Peace," the U.S. secretary of state was assuring the Russian leaders: There is no question of expanding NATO. But the "partnership" program is precisely the formula that should suit the Central and East European states. This approach was in line with both Russia's interests and U.S. interests. But recently the White House has become alarmed at the growth of Europe's independence (events over Bosnia, for one thing, are evidence of this). The process of expanding the bloc is being sharply stepped up: It is by adding new members of NATO that the United States intends not only to maintain but to strengthen its position in Europe.

But Washington did not deem it necessary to take into consideration Moscow's view that expanding NATO will lead to a new division of Europe. Today the United States is saying that by expanding NATO it is accommodating the fears of East European countries that aggressive and imperial forces could come to power in Russia. But, even if you adhere to this highly dubious viewpoint, is it not obvious that by placing Russia in isolation the United States is actually playing into the hands of these same forces? Does this really accord with U.S. interests? Of course not.

The U.S. attitude to the Bosnian crisis has proved to be not only unjust but also irrational. Reliance on force and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

NATO bombings has failed, and Washington itself has been forced to recognize this. The result of the bombings has been, as Moscow warned in the first place, that the UN "blue helmets" have found themselves endangered. And the question of their withdrawal has arisen.

Finally, the U.S. stance as regards peacekeeping operations on the territory of the former USSR is highly dubious. Russia welcomes cooperation with the United Nations and the CSCE in this question, including, for instance, the creation of peacekeeping forces for Nagorno-Karabakh. But how can we agree to our partners' seeing their own control over Moscow's actions, rather than their participation, as the main aim?

Russia responded in a fairly tough way—by refusing to sign the already agreed program on cooperation with NATO and blocking the resolutions on Bosnia, first at the UN Security Council and then at the Budapest sitting. So our position and declared approaches are undoubtedly more just than those which Washington is now proclaiming. But is it enough to merely recognize this fact now? Will it be comfortable for Moscow and Washington to live in this "cold peace"?

I do not think so. Particularly since the United States is already actively talking about increasing the military budget. Indeed, if the White House proposes to increase it by $25 billion in the next six years, then certain republican members of Congress over there intend to raise the question of reviving SDI. I do not believe that this attitude will go unnoticed among our parliamentarians during the discussion of the Russian military budget.

Should we step onto the slippery slope of confrontation? It is enough to look at the recent past to see where all this could lead. And the fact that such a threat exists is demonstrated by the presence in both capitals of active enthusiasts of confrontational rhetoric, and not just rhetoric. Both will only be pleased at the cool atmosphere provoked by Washington. If we are not to let the development of Russian-U.S. relations get out of control, would it not be better to concentrate efforts on settling issues in which their interests coincide? After all, it did prove possible, through the joint efforts of the United States and Russia, to confirm the nuclear-free status of Ukraine, Belorussia [Belarus], and Kazakhstan and put the Strategic Offensive Weapons [START] I Treaty into effect.

At the same time, Russia can and should show its character. Despite all its importance in today's world, the United States is far from being the only force in it. And given that we consider our own attitude realistic, more and more spheres are going to emerge for possible cooperation with those states which are realistically interested in settling acute problems. For instance, it is perfectly clear that the Russian approach to the Bosnian situation was greeted with far greater understanding by France and Britain than by the United States. At the same time, I am in no way calling on anyone to drive a wedge into relations between those or other states and the United States (which is not very realistic). No, this is a question of joint efforts to unblock the most acute conflict situations. Efforts from which even Washington cannot ultimately stand aside.

Finally, it is time for Russia to remember that a just approach is only effective when a country is strong. And not only in the military sense....

Chechnya Forces Chernomyrdin To Postpone Georgian Visit

LD1212200894 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in 1316 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received]—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's official visit to Georgia, which according to an agreement, was due to have taken place today has been postponed indefinitely because of recent events in Russia connected with the introduction of its interior troops into Chechnya.

200 Ukrainians, 10 Crimeans 'Assist' Chechnya President

LD1312102294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, December 13 TASS—Some 200 members of Una-Unso, a Ukrainian right-wing radical organisation, who participated in combat operations in the Dniester area of Moldova as well as in Abkhazia, are now in Chechnya.

ITAR-TASS learnt here on Tuesday [13 December] that the presence of Una-Unso representatives in that republic is not limited, as it was stated earlier, to "purely observation functions".

According to press reports, ten volunteers from the unregistered Islamic Party of the Crimea also went to Chechnya to assist the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime.

Foreign Policy 'Incompetence' Decried

MM1312104194 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Andranik Migranyan, member of the Presidential Council, adviser to the "Reforma" Fund, and chief expert on Russian Federation State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs, under the "Alternative" rubric: "Russia's Foreign Policy: Disastrous Results of Three Years. Time To Pause and Change Both Policy and Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] How We Implement Foreign Policy [subhead]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

If I were to attempt to briefly characterize the essence of Russia's foreign policy, it could be reduced to four categories: bustle, improvisation, incompetence, and, as a result of all this, zig-zagging.

The most recent example is provided by the complex of Russia's relations with NATO, where all the aforesaid characteristics of Russian foreign policy have been reflected as in a drop of water and have resulted in total defeat for our diplomacy in this area. First we gave the green light for East European countries to join NATO by approving of Poland's intention to subscribe to the North Atlantic Treaty. Then we sent letters to our Western partners objecting categorically to the inclusion of East European countries in this bloc (at the same time we forgot to send a letter to Poland explaining the reasons for going back on our own word, which we had given at the time of the Russian president's visit to Warsaw). Next we agreed with the NATO countries to the creation of the "Partnership for Peace" program for East European countries and Russia as a compromise option to counterbalance the plans for NATO's immediate expansion. Despite the warnings that I gave both in the press (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, March 1994) and in two Duma hearings to the effect that Russia's consent to subscribe to that program would give the green light to NATO's expansion and to that organization's conversion into the only universal European security structure without the full participation of Russia, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Minister Kozyrev maintained, along with experts around the Foreign Ministry, that this was the only way to prevent NATO's expansion on the one hand and Russia's isolation on the other hand. Just a few months after Russia subscribed to the "Partnership for Peace" program, everything happened precisely as I had surmised. First the U.S. Congress adopted the decision to enlarge NATO, and then, in November, the North Atlantic Assembly confirmed that decision in Washington. It thereby canceled out the Russian Foreign Ministry's illusory hopes of turning this organization into the nucleus of European security, as had been recorded, at Minister Kozyrev's instigation, in the president's message to the Federal Assembly. Although it had already been clear even to a schoolchild by the end of 1993 that this was a stillborn venture. The apotheosis was the NATO Council session's decision to set up working groups to shift the bloc's expansion by means of East European countries into the plane of practical policy. The crushing defeat of Russian diplomacy stood out in still greater relief in Brussels 1 December, since the decision to enlarge NATO was made on the eve of the Budapest meeting of heads of state and government of the CSCE countries, where Russia intended to secure the adoption of a new European security concept by means of turning the CSCE into an effective European security structure possessing the necessary means and powers. Kozyrev's conduct in Brussels can only confirm us in the opinion that the minister of a vast nuclear state evidently tackles foreign policy only by way of a misunderstanding. Kozyrev's refusal to sign the program prepared by Russia for Russia's cooperation with NATO within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" program, claiming that the NATO countries had virtually deceived Russia, gives rise to a number of legitimate, perplexed questions. Why did Kozyrev go to Brussels? Did he really not know that the decision to enlarge NATO would be adopted at precisely that time?

If he did not know this, why do we maintain this vast Foreign Ministry, does Russia have a negotiating process with NATO at all, and who conducts this negotiating process? If our Western partners deceived Russia, for what purpose and why just before the Budapest meeting? If he did, all the same, know of the NATO Council's possible decision, what was the purpose of Kozyrev's demarche? For critics of Kozyrev's policy long ago warned that, within the framework of the 16-plus-one formula, Russia has no possibility of blocking the process of enlarging NATO. It was possible to assume that, having refused to sign the agreement on cooperation with NATO, Kozyrev would maintain a certain pause. But nothing of the kind. The Russian minister would have betrayed his own nature and the main quality of his policy if he had not at once reduced his own demarche to naught by saying that Russia was not abandoning the "Partnership" program in the present conditions but was merely deferring signing the cooperation program.

Another graphic example of bustle and improvisation was displayed in the attitude toward Iraq. Last year, when Baghdad was subjected to a U.S. missile strike owing to the failed attempt in Kuwait to assassinate former U.S. President G. Bush, the Russian Foreign Ministry supported that highly dubious punitive action by Washington in advance of the U.S. allies in NATO. At that time the people on Smolensk Square did not think of the fact that the USSR had very long-standing and serious relations with Iraq or that that country was a major debtor of Russia and a potential sales market for Russian weapons. For some reason Kozyrev recalled this after his U.S. visit and the summit meeting, when the U.S. Administration promised to go along with certain Russian demands in the sphere of trade and economic cooperation. But it was precisely after the Washington summit that the U.S. Administration needed certain foreign policy successes, particularly in respect of Iraq, in order to win voters over to the Democratic Party in the midterm elections to the U.S. Congress. Precisely that time saw the peak of Kozyrev's diplomacy with regard to Iraq. We remembered that Russia must have its own policy, which does not always coincide with U.S. policy, and that it was necessary to lift the sanctions against Iraq in order to get billions of Russian dollars back from Saddam Husayn. As a result of Kozyrev's improvisations in the Iraqi-U.S. salient, we secured the usual result for such a policy: The sanctions were not lifted; in the United States the Democrats suffered a crushing defeat (of course, by no means only because Kozyrev had

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

queered Clinton's and Talbott's pitch in Iraq); the positions of those people in the United States who believed that the policy with regard to the CIS countries must be pursued with reliance on Russia were greatly weakened; the securing of Iraq's debts remains just as dubious as before, although it is quite likely that the U.S. Administration will continue actions like the lifting of the embargo on arms deliveries to the Muslims in Bosnia, the galvanization of actions to prevent the processes of integration within the CIS, and so on.

I cannot overlook at least two instances where our diplomacy has displayed extreme incompetence.

The first occasion was frankly anecdotal. The Russian representative on the Security Council voted for the secretary general to be granted a UN mandate to use the NATO forces in Bosnia together with Western countries, but when NATO aircraft bombed the Serbs' positions in Bosnia without a prior discussion of this question with Russia, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry declared that the Russian representative had not voted for such a mandate for the secretary general and that the Russian side had assumed that another discussion and vote would be required before NATO aircraft were used in Bosnia.

The second instance also attests to our diplomats' extreme incompetence. After the first NATO bombing strikes against the Bosnian Serbs' positions, it became obvious that NATO was already in fact becoming a universal European security structure without Russia's participation and largely without regard for Russia's opinion. In view of this, Russian diplomacy stepped up its efforts to turn the CSCE into an effective tool for ensuring European security. It would have been logical to assume that the Russian diplomats' next steps must be to rectify the mistake which they had made by helping to turn NATO into a tool of UN military policy in the hands of the secretary general of that organization. In addition to rhetoric about limiting that bloc's zone of action, however, there followed a vote in the Security Council in favor of expanding NATO's zone of action, this time against Serb Krajina within Croatia.

Several graphic examples of bustle, zig-zagging, and improvisation can be cited in the sphere of Russia's relations with the near abroad which, so the Foreign Ministry and the Russian leadership unanimously claim, is the chief priority for Russian foreign policy. Our diplomacy has already thoroughly confused everyone with its actions in respect of Belarus. Now we unite the monetary systems, now we disunite them. Now we unite these two states in general, now we demand radical reforms of the Belarusians before speaking in earnest about the forms of integration. It is hard to overestimate the moral, economic, political, military, and geostrategic harm caused by such a policy.

Still more evident is the failure of the Foreign Ministry's policy in the Ukrainian salient. Being the No. 1 priority for Russia, it demanded for itself a better fate than the policy that was and is being implemented with regard to that country. The Russian Foreign Ministry and, still more widely, the Russian authorities proved unprepared for the fact that the "Russia" bloc might win the elections to the Supreme Council in Crimea and Yuriy Meshkov win the presidential election under slogans of unification with Moscow. The only strategy that Russian diplomacy had in respect of such a painful problem in Russian-Ukrainian relations was a strategy of ignoring the problem. Recently, at the parliamentary hearings in the State Duma on Russian-Ukrainian relations, a Russian Federation deputy minister of foreign affairs gave a highly diplomatic formulation of this strategy of ignoring the matter. According to this high-ranking diplomat, Crimea is unfortunately an irritant in Russian-Ukrainian relations, and it would be a good thing to somehow get rid of these importunate Crimeans, who pester Russia with a request for unification. Russian diplomacy proved still less ready for Leonid Kuchma's win in the presidential election under slogans of a strategic partnership with Russia, of strengthening the CIS structures and Ukraine's ties with this organization, lending Russian the status of an official language, establishing treaty relations with Crimea, and so on.

What was Russia's reaction to this? You have guessed it—none at all. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry regarded the treaty with Ukraine prepared in Kravchuk's time as ready for signing without attempting even to investigate the matter itself or to propose to the Ukrainian partners that we jointly define the concept of "strategic partnership" and enshrine it in a treaty. For the Ukrainian president and the majority of the deputies came to power by promising their people closer cooperation with Russia. Extreme surprise is elicited by the fact that the Russian diplomats dealing with Ukraine themselves make an extremely narrow interpretation of strategic partnership, reducing it just to economic cooperation, which can be called anything you like, only not strategic partnership.

I could multiply the examples of bustle, zig-zagging, improvisation, and incompetence, but I believe that what I have already said is quite sufficient to draw serious conclusions.

What Has Come of This

Three years of an independent foreign policy provide sufficient material for a reply to the chief question: To what extent has the new democratic Russia adapted to the new realities in the world following the breakup of the USSR, and what has been gained and lost along this path?

There is every reason to believe that the process of adaptation was very painful, while the results are largely the direct opposite of the new Russian authorities' expectations.

After the dissipation of the fog of words about the unity of Russia's values and aims with its Western partners,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the endless assurances of support for Russian reforms and the young democracy, promises of multibillion-dollar aid for modernizing the Russian economy and easing the negative consequences of "shock therapy," it turned out that Russia came up against very tough realities. Having been the main factor in the destruction of the USSR—a communist nuclear superpower—Russia, being incommensurately weaker than the USSR in the economic and military-political respects, failed to find new friends and allies, having lost at the same time its old allies, partners, and clients. Thus, three years after gaining its independence, Russia found itself in all respects far more alone and vulnerable in the world arena than the Soviet Union.

Kozyrev's foreign policy has so far been characterized by an attempt to join in the new world economic relations, ties, and international structures by cooperating exclusively with the United States and, at the same time, supporting many U.S. international actions at the United Nations. It can already be noted, however, that the results have proved highly deplorable for Russia both in bilateral Russian-U.S. relations and on key issues of world politics. The relations with the United States announced by Kozyrev—first relations of alliance, then mature partnership—have failed to produce tangible results either in the sphere of activating U.S. aid for the Russian economy or for lifting customs barriers and restrictions in the way of Russian commodities onto U.S. markets. Not even the notorious Jackson-Vanik amendment has yet been officially repealed.

Despite all the Russian leadership's efforts to prevent NATO's expansion with new members among the East European countries, Clinton finally buried the hopes of Russian politicians on this issue in Budapest 5 December.

Russia's perfectly valid demand for a revision of its quotas relating to tanks and armored hardware within the framework of the Vienna accords on the reduction of conventional arms in Europe in connection with the USSR's breakup is also coming up against NATO resistance. The USSR's quotas relating to armored hardware mainly went to Ukraine and the Transcaucasian republics—which made Russia's southwestern and southern borders very vulnerable.

There is growing international pressure on Russia in connection with its role in the Yugoslav crisis. The stepping up of the U.S. presence in the Balkans, particularly in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and Albania, and Russia's isolation on the issue of Yugoslavia are obvious steps in the direction of finally squeezing Russia out of Europe.

It is natural that the U.S.-centered policy of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry has made it impossible not only to strengthen relations with Russia's traditional partners in Asia, Africa, the Near East, and Latin America but even to maintain them at their former level. Among the failures of Russia's U.S.-centered policy we should also note Russia's "shining absence" from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Council conferences in Vancouver and Bongar [name as transliterated].

The evolution of the policy of the Western countries, particularly the United States, gives grounds for highly depressing conclusions on the results of this foreign policy also with regard to the "near abroad." Neither the United States nor its partners regard Russia as an integrating factor in the area of the former USSR. Doubt is cast on Russia's aims in its peacekeeping operations on CIS territory, while its efforts to strengthen this regional organization are perceived as attempts to restore the Russian or Soviet empire. The actions of the United States and its partners (although differences in the positions of the Western countries on various particular problems are obvious) in the Transcaucasus, Central Asia, and Ukraine are clearly aimed at shaping geopolitical pluralism on the territory of the former Soviet Union and preventing Russian leadership of the CIS.

Thus, the fruits of the new democratic Russia's three-year U.S.-centered foreign policy have produced highly lamentable results in all areas. But the most important result of this three-year period, as has become obvious precisely in recent months, is the fact that after some vacillation the United States and its allies decided to take the very risky step of institutionally consolidating the results of the ending of the "Cold War": Having announced that precisely Russia suffered defeat in that war, to consolidate in their favor the geostrategic and geopolitical changes which have occurred as a result of the breakup of the Soviet bloc. The expansion of NATO, the lifting of the embargo on arms deliveries to the Muslims in Bosnia, the enlargement of the NATO troops' zone of responsibility, and Russia's ousting from Europe and the CIS countries constitute steps to realize these ends.

Thus, Russia's reward for destroying the totalitarian Soviet empire has not been its return to civilization as a respected and equal partner but its drastic weakening and isolation.

Two conclusions suggest themselves from all that has been said. First, the continuation of such a policy is disastrous for Russia, and a cardinal reappraisal of both the role and the priorities of its foreign policy is required. Second, our partners should take account of the fact that the threat of isolation will have a serious impact on the internal political process in Russia and will make possible the accession to power of anti-Western and extremely nationalist-oriented forces which will be able to use Russia's isolation to create an authoritarian mobilization regime in order to cope with the socioeconomic problems inside the country. Given such a development of events, an isolated Russia with a mobilization regime will, like a compressed spring, pose a serious and constant threat to the international community. This spring might be released at any moment. I am afraid that the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

West is repeating with Russia the mistake which it made in respect of Germany after World War I. Everybody knows what that led to.

Why This Happened

In order to understand our calamitous situation in the foreign policy sphere, it is not enough merely to single out the main characteristics of this policy and to note its results. I consider it extremely urgent to dwell at least fleetingly on two key questions. Which objective factors promote the implementation of an improvisational foreign policy? What corrections should be made to the shaping of a new foreign policy?

After the breakup of the USSR and the elimination of the CPSU, we destroyed not only the old system of economic management but at the same time also the system for adopting political decisions on international problems. In the old system the sphere of diplomacy and the sphere of determining foreign policy proper were separate. The Communists understood that foreign policy is too serious a matter to be entrusted to diplomats alone. Under the old regime the CPSU Central Committee and its specialized structures tackled the shaping of foreign policy strategy and policy, the defining of priorities, and the coordination of the efforts of various departments in both shaping and implementing the policy. The Central Committee also coordinated the activities of academy institutes with an international profile, which largely related only formally to the USSR Academy of Sciences and were, rather, brains centers of Staraya Ploshchad's International Department.

Political decisions on foreign policy were agreed within the framework of the Central Committee, and the most important decisions were adopted at the level of the Politburo and the Secretariat, where the foreign minister was one of many to adopt a decision. This was a well-honed system for making political decisions, which had to be implemented by the Foreign Ministry and by diplomats on the spot. After the destruction of the old decisionmaking system we failed to create any reasonably good new one at all: The low-power Russian Federation Foreign Ministry with a leadership which had transferred from the third echelon of the Union Foreign Ministry took it upon itself to resolve tasks with which the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Foreign Ministry, academy institutes, and quasi-public organizations with an international profile had barely coped given the relatively stable power, clear strategy, and well-defined priorities of the Soviet Union.

The International Affairs Committee of the old Russian Federation Supreme Soviet was unable to play a role in shaping foreign policy that was at all important. To a considerable degree this was a result of the conflict between the branches of power and of the stand taken by Kozyrev, who for two years (1992-93) reduced Russia's entire foreign policy to an internal ideological struggle. Although the minister constantly says that he implements the president's foreign policy, the president is practically completely dependent on the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry when making decisions in this sphere. The foreign policy structure that was belatedly created in the Security Council practically collapsed after Yuriy Skokov's departure, and its remnants are living out their days in expectation of diplomatic appointments along Foreign Ministry lines.

The Foreign Intelligence Service has ended up the only structure connected with foreign policy, given the absence of any conceptual approaches by both the Foreign Ministry and the Security Council, which attempts to shape Russia's aims and interests in the modern world. Academician Yevgeniy Primakov's experience of participation in shaping the foreign policy line in the past evidently made him bridge that gap as far as possible, given the complete impotence of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry and the Security Council. Primakov's activity resulted in a number of reports which attracted the attention of the public and of specialists both in Russia and abroad.

The Russian Foreign Ministry and Minister Kozyrev, having no ideas or sources of them and engaging only in operational activity, virtually monopolized the country's foreign policy line, portraying it as presidential. We have already noted the catastrophic results of that state of affairs. Intellectual helplessness, the lack of a line, incompetence, and the lack of a serious negotiating process to prepare good agreements and to achieve fruitful results are offset by the semblance of frenzied activity by Minister Kozyrev, who dashes, as though crazy, between Vancouver, Cape Town, and Casablanca, sending up clouds of dust. It would be all right if there were no results. But as a result of this pseudo-activity Russia's position in the world is becoming increasingly complicated. No wonder the situation in the Foreign Ministry is dire. People are leaving. Many talented people do not wish to pointlessly wear out the seat of their pants and observe their minister's somersaults when the country's prestige is falling more and more, while they themselves earn a pittance. Evil tongues are saying that a year's saving on pointless globe-trotting on board special aircraft would be sufficient to significantly increase the wages of ministry staffers.

What Is To Be Done

What, then, can be done in the present conditions in order once again to share out spheres of policy and diplomacy, to put the Foreign Ministry in its place, and to make foreign policy really presidential?

World experience teaches that political decisions in the sphere of foreign policy must be adopted within the framework of an interdepartmental structure. Neither the Security Council nor the apparatus of the assistant for national security are suitable for such work in their present form. Since the Security Council tackles the problem of security inside Russia, so as not to engender new structures it would be possible to concentrate the coordination of foreign policy with the participation of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the leaders of the appropriate departments (the Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry, the Foreign Intelligence Service, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and so on) in the apparatus of the president's assistant for national security. Thus, we would virtually have a structure tackling the problem of Russia's security in the world.

Finally, an answer should be given in general outline to the question of what Russia is to do in the present conditions. What should its foreign policy guidelines be, even the most general ones, after the old ones have collapsed?

The chief conclusion that suggests itself today from all that has been said about the reasons for the failures is to stop bustling. The "cold shower" of Brussels and Budapest must be to our benefit. Russian foreign policy must pause. Enough of empty initiatives, visits, and talk. We must not thrust ourselves upon any structures or alliances which do not await us and are not pleased to see us. These alliances and structures can hardly ensure Russia greater security or ease its economic position. Any assistance for, or step toward, Russia is set about with numerous conditions in order to keep us constantly on the leash. The West has already lost its chance to include Russia painlessly in international structures without detriment to Russia's interests and dignity. Russia can heave a sigh of relief, since the hopes that, given good behavior, we will receive appropriate recompense if we do not offend the United States, Germany, Japan, Estonia, or some other country over a particular issue of international politics have now vanished. The United States as a pusher of Russia, according to Kozyrev's concept, has failed totally to cope with its role. Three explanations are possible here. Either it did not understand this role. Or the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry did not explain it to it sufficiently clearly. Or else it had no intention of playing the role of this pusher right from the start.

One way or another Russia has ended up in a situation in which its hands are completely tied both in the West and in the East, and it can at last, for the first time since the start of perestroyka, pursue its own policy regardless of whether or not it will be recompensed for its steps and without prior obligations to others. The pause must be utilized to reformulate Russian priorities. Alas, Kozyrev remembered too late the European and Near Eastern capitals. The new balance of forces in the world as a whole and in each key region for Russia must be taken into account. In the immediate future Russia must evidently really focus all its attention on the CIS countries. We ourselves must decide at last which levers we possess here for creating a belt of stability and good-neighborliness and how we intend to use them to prevent attempts to create geopolitical pluralism in the area of the former USSR and also to make the transition from words to deeds in the advancement of multilevel integration. In a number of instances it might be necessary to make serious economic sacrifices for the sake of strategic and geopolitical interests. As for the far abroad, we should be aware that today we have very limited resources and potential to globally influence world events. Still more should we take account of the balance of forces and interests in order to throw Russia's still quite considerable weight and voice in the Security Council onto the scales there when this affects the country's vital interests, but not in order to win instant applause and empty assurances. Not participating in permanent blocs and alliances, Russia is enabled to decide for itself in each specific instance with whom or against whom it will come out, proceeding exclusively from its own interest.

Russia must learn anew the long-standing well-known truth—but one which was forgotten through the thoughtlessness of Gorbachev, Shevardnadze, and Kozyrev—that a state does not have constant allies and friends but only constant interests.

I would like to hope that a new minister of foreign affairs will formulate this new course, which will return to Russia both proper dignity and respect, and will attempt to implement it with the help of a new mechanism for elaborating and implementing foreign policy.

Kazakhstan: Presidents Sign Treaty on Protecting CIS Border

MM1212154794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "To Ensure the Security of the CIS Borders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian President B. Yeltsin and Republic of Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbayev have signed an interstate treaty on cooperation in protecting the external borders of the CIS, the Russian Federation Border Service information agency announced on 9 December.

Among other things the treaty reflects questions of the social protection and legal status of border troops and their families. The question of preserving Russian serviceman's status for citizens of Russia serving in Kazakhstan's border troops has been resolved.

Kozyrev's Walkout Seen as 'Symbolic Gesture'

MK1312120094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Dec 94 p 3

[International Affairs Department report: "Kozyrev Vs. Kozyrev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A deputy's application to leave his faction is usually regarded as a routine matter. But not when the deputy is the chief of the Foreign Ministry, the faction is "Russia's Choice," and the pretext for separation is the use of troops to solve internal problems. For this reason, by making his 11 December statement, not only has Andrey Kozyrev distanced himself from the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

critics of the Russian president's Chechen policy, not only has he underscored his loyalty to Boris Yeltsin, but he put a period at the end of his political evolution. If one compares the Kozyrev of December 1992 with the Kozyrev of December 1994, one may gain the impression that these are two different ministers. The country and the president, however, have changed, too. The minister has simply evolved in accordance with the general trend.

Kozyrev's statement was prompted by the criticism of the force solution to the conflict in Chechnya by his faction co-members, Yegor Gaydar and Sergey Yushenkov. The foreign minister said that democracy is not a lack of power or separatism, but order based on the Constitution. Yesterday he explained his move to a narrow circle of journalists, noting in particular that the goings-on in Chechnya "are also the protection of human rights." The reason for his action is probably not administrative discipline (Kozyrev is a member of the Security Council, which made the decision on bringing troops to Chechnya). His exit from the faction is merely a symbolic gesture.

In order fully to grasp Kozyrev's maneuver, one needs to recall December 1992 and the Stockholm meeting of the CSCE. At the time he engaged in a session of shock diplomacy: Upon mounting the rostrum, he outlined "the limits of rapprochement with Western Europe" and assured the Serbs and Saddam Husayn of support by "the great Russia." Calling the ex-USSR space "neoimperial," the Foreign Ministry chief said that Russia would pursue its interests there "by using all means available, including military means." Western diplomats were on the verge of cardiac arrest. An hour later Kozyrev personally disavowed himself: everything he said was allegedly an expose of merely "mild" opposition views. To the astonished "Why?" he explained: the West begins "to realize something keenly" only when things go as far as blood and war.

Currently, in Moscow's eyes Saddam is even more respectable than he was one or two years ago; for the sake of protecting the Serbs Moscow resorted to its right of veto at the UN Security Council and risked isolation at the recent CSCE summit in Budapest. That same Kozyrev, by refusing to sign the program for cooperation with NATO, has quite clearly defined "the limit of rapprochement" with the West. Clinton is nearly shocked nowadays and openly speaks today (from the podium of the Pan-American summit) about his disenchantment with Russia. He perceives as links of one single chain the refusal to sign a joint program with NATO, Yeltsin's harsh statement at the CSCE summit, and even Chechnya: the last is, of course, "Russia's internal matter," but it would be better straightened out "with little blood, if any." Yesterday, Warren Christopher called for "a long, good talk" with Kozyrev on the entire range of relations between Russia and the United States, using the term "tension" as he spoke. NATO General Secretary Willy Claas asks more bluntly: Is this not a shift in Moscow's overall strategy?

Foreign assessments are generally uniform: bringing order to Chechnya is Russia's internal matter. But in the same breath they inevitably add that a peaceful way of settlement would be extremely desirable (even the CIS countries are unanimous in saying so). Forcible actions have not been supported by anybody. For any new emergence of Russian tanks calls to life deep-rooted historical associations. It is not important where they might appear—in Budapest, Prague, Kabul, Baku, Tbilisi, Vilnius, or Groznyy. Yeltsin and Kozyrev have long tried to dispel such associations. But, becoming suddenly and abruptly disillusioned with the West, they themselves now have a chance to thwart their own efforts. For the sake of what? The nationalist patriots will not appreciate their current line all the same, nor would they forgive them their past policies. But foreign partners will pause to think: How can they deal with a regime which does not have enough patience or consistency for anything and for which the last argument of the king too often tends to become the first one.

Moldova's Sangheli Signs 'Most' CIS Agreements in Moscow

AU1212132094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2100 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, BASAPRESS, 9/12/1994—Today, the reunion of the CIS prime ministers was held in Moscow. Premier Andrei Sangheli signed most agreements included in the agenda of the reunion, BASA learned from the Moldovan Embassy to Russia. The agenda included 18 issues on cooperation between the CIS member states. The agreement on unifying customs legislation stipulates a lift of all customs restrictions in 1995. According to the agreement on labor protection, the interests of those employed abroad will be protected by the agreements signed within the CIS. The railways traffic agreement provides assistance for Moldova and coordination of the CIS railways. The agreement on assistance in case of natural disasters was also signed. It was decided that all CIS countries contribute to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Victory Day. Premier Sangheli met with Vitaliy Masol, the Ukrainian premier, and signed the agreement on economic and commercial cooperation over five years between Moldova and Ukraine.

Foreign Ministry Demands Tajik Opposition Stop Provocations

LD1312095494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0903 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 13—The Russian Foreign Ministry demanded that the Tajik opposition stop provocations against Russian frontier guards. The Foreign Ministry accused them of violating the agreement on temporary ceasefire and of other hostile actions on the Afghan-Tajik border and within Tajikistan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The statement circulated by the Russian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday says that a frontier guards post of the Kalaiihum frontier guards district was fired at from recoilless guns and grenade throwers from the villages of Moimai in Afghanistan and Kurgovad, Tajikistan. One Russian frontier guard was killed and seven wounded.

The Russian Foreign Ministry reports that the Russian federal frontier guards service took extra measures to ensure its own security. The United Nations Mission in Tajikistan was immediately informed of the violation of the agreement.

AFP Correspondent Sees Villagers Confronting Army Major

AU1212164394 Paris AFP in English 1632 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Report by Catherine Triomphe: "Have You Come To Kill Us?" Chechens Ask Russian "Invader"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chervlennaya, Russia, Dec 12 (AFP)—The Russian major, leaning against an army truck with a machinegun strapped across his back, drew on his cigarette as he watched his troops install a guard post outside this north Chechen village.

Part of the intervention force that poured into Chechnya Sunday [11 December] with orders from Moscow to end this renegade Russian republic's three-year secession bid, he gave his name as Sergei.

Choosing his words carefully, he told an AFP reporter that he and his men—"perhaps 500 or 600 in all"—reached this village around 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of the Chechen capital Grozny Sunday morning via the neighbouring Russian republic of Dagestan.

Suddenly, he stepped back and readjusted his shoulder strap. Seconds later he was surrounded by a reception committee of around a dozen irate Chechens from the nearby village.

"Do you want to repeat here the massacres that have taken place in Georgia, Armenia, and elsewhere in the Caucasus?" one of them asked by way of introduction.

"That depends as much on you as on me," Sergei replied.

A member of the group, who gave his name as Danilbek Ochayev, added: "Do you have children?" Sergei answered yes.

"The other day when Russian planes dropped bombs near here, my son led his little brother into the cellar and told him: 'Lie flat on your stomach'," Danilbek continued. "What would you say if we did that to your children?"

Tensions rose as Sergei declined to answer.

Two village children joined the group, including 12-year-old Sania, who asked Sergei: "Will you be staying here for a long time?"

That was up to Moscow to decide, Sergei replied.

Ilyass Khassiyev, a Groz n y resident, admitted that, until now, he had never supported Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who unilaterally declared the republic's independence in 1991.

"But in the situation in which you have placed us, even I am prepared to fight you," he warned the major.

The group's only woman, silent until now, demanded: "Why have you come here? To massacre our people?"

Sergei, now visibly ill at ease, said: "There is no question of massacring you, only disarming you," adding vaguely that, once that had been achieved, "the other questions will resolve themselves."

Although Moscow has steadfastly refused to acknowledge Chechen independence, and its troops, tanks and armoured cars were waiting Monday for orders to storm Groznyy, Sergei remained confident the crisis will be resolved without further bloodshed.

"President Yeltsin has given the Chechens until December 15 to hand in their weapons," he said. "After that date we will go looking for those weapons ourselves. If they aren't handed over we all know very well what will happen."

The threat now spoken, the group dispersed in silence.

Walking away, Ilyass told another villager: "If they come to my house looking for my gun, I'll hand it over. So will many other Chechens. But if we hear a single gunshot no one will be prepared to disarm and the consequences will be terrible".

U.S. Experts Inspect Former Chemical Weapons Facility

LD1312110994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1037 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Saratov December 13 TASS—U.S. experts have inspected Russia's former facility for the development of chemical weapons—the State Institute of Organic Synthesis Technology at Shikhany in Saratov region—in accordance with a bilateral agreement between the Russian and U.S. governments.

Fifteen American scientists carried out a large amount of research for four days in view of the forthcoming ratification of an international convention banning chemical weapons.

The American scientists took samples from equipment and ground surface around the buildings of the previously top secret institute. None of the samples revealed the presence of toxic substances, institute director A. Kochergin said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

At the concluding stage of the inspection, the U.S. side made an official statement expressing satisfaction with the results of the inspection.

Vice President Gore To Discuss Space Cooperation

LD1312150894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktoria Zuyeva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 13—The space topic will be among the main issues during a Russian visit by U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore which starts on Wednesday [14 December]. He will participate in the work of a commission nicknamed "Gore-Chernomyrdin" commission.

Construction of an international space station will be the key point of discussions. The last discussion of this space project, the implementation of which is to start in 1997, will be held next March.

It is planned that the Russian Proton booster will put into orbit a functional-cargo unit (FCU) in November 1997, which was developed and built by the Khrunichev space research centre in Moscow.

Funds for its construction were transferred by the U.S. Lockheed corporation which buys three models of the FCU for 600 million dollars. It is interesting that each side regards the coming launching as its own, although the producer has no right to the sold product after its sale.

Following the FCU, a Russian-made service module will blast off into space in April 1998, to which a Soyuz spaceship with three Russian cosmonauts will dock in May. From that time on, Russians will start regular domestication of the station which will gradually enlarge.

Americans who are accustomed under terrestrial conditions to move only in well-equipped dwellings, can start work at the station on a permanent basis only in summer of 2002 when a U.S. dwelling module will be put into orbit.

Such a situation does not suit the American side even now: the United States would like to see its astronaut at the station since May 1998 together with Russian cosmonauts.

Another important question has to be settled at the government meeting: nearly a ton of U.S. scientific equipment which is to be on the Russian "Spektr" module, is "stranded" at the Russian customs house: customs officers demand payment for the import of the equipment.

Neither director of the Russian Space Agency Yuriy Koptev nor NASA head Daniel Goldin could influence the positive solution of this problem (module's launching is scheduled for May 10, 1995).

Besides, work on joint use of a Russian navigational system, glonass, and a similar U.S. system, Navstar, is conducted in the framework of international space cooperation.

The Russian Government compiled a draft decision providing for cooperation between Russian and U.S. organisations in the interests of civil customers as well as a draft of an intergovernment agreement between Russia and the U.S. on the joint use of these systems.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Enjoys Post-Operation 'Progress'

LD1212150294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1434 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Dec— Boris Yeltsin is progressing well after his operation and it has not been ruled out that within a few days' time he will be taking part in working meetings in the Kremlin with foreign leaders. This was stated at a briefing today by Vyacheslav Kostikov, the president's press secretary.

According to Kostikov, "the president is fully involved in the working process, is in control of the political situation in the country, and is studying the Chechen problem." This problem was discussed, among other things, at today's meeting between Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, and First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, Kostikov reported. He added that "the president sees his task as ensuring a political solution to the Chechen problem and guaranteeing cooperation among all branches of power and responsible political forces."

The head of state does not single out the Chechen people from other Russian peoples, and is striving to act in that direction in such a way as to ensure normal conditions for life and for observing human rights in Chechnya, Kostikov noted.

Boris Yeltsin, his press secretary points out, notes the importance of cooperation and the consolidation of all forces and strata of Russian society. "It is important to put to one side narrow party interests and no one should consider the situation in Chechnya from the viewpoint of their own party interests," Vyacheslav Kostikov stressed.

Illness 'Not Strategic'

LD1212185694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1725 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Video report by Sergey Dorenko from the Kremlin, including recorded interview with Vyacheslav Kostikov, President Yeltsin's press secretary; From the "Details" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dorenko] The Kremlin has long been silent regarding the events in Chechnya. That is with the exception of Yeltsin's statements read out by television news presenters. Otherwise, rumors have been very contradictory, with the Kremlin, the Government, and Chernomyrdin keeping quiet and Yeltsin undergoing treatment for his nose trouble. Now Yeltsin's aides have decided to fill this vacuum and tell us about their and the Kremlin's view of the situation around Chechnya. [Video switches to a corridor where Dorenko addresses Kostikov] So, how is the president's health? There is the view that this is a strategic illness.

[Kostikov] You know this is not a strategic illness. Boris Nikolayevich has been suffering for a long time from a nose cavity complaint. It originated in his youth when he fractured his nose. So it is to some extent an old problem.

Yeltsin underwent an operation on Friday. At first the president's doctors agreed that Boris Nikolayevich would need seven to eight days to recover, after which he would fully be able to start work in his office. However, the situation is such that he is now recovering faster than it was first supposed. We are hoping that the president will retake his seat in his office within the next few days.

However, I must say that even now the president is fully aware of the situation in the country and in Chechnya. He is holding consultations. In particular, today Boris Nikolayevich had a long meeting with Chernomyrdin and Oleg Soskovets. In addition, he is constantly in touch by phone with his first aide. That is, he is taking part in tackling all the strategic and political issues and is in full control of the situation in the country.

[Dorenko] In other words, this ailment is not distracting the president from his job, and all the decisions are made by the president and not by General Grachev. Is this right?

[Kostikov] The illness and the operation distracted the president from being directly involved in governing the country only for the two hours during which the operation was carried out. After this, on the very day of the operation, he was able to speak, to talk, and to issue instructions, despite his breathing difficulties. At any rate he is now trying to absorb the whole multitude of information, both regarding the country and Chechnya.

Kalmykov Cites Chechnya as Cause for Resignation

MM1212145194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Segal: "Confessions of an Ex-Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yu.Kh. Kalmykov, now former Russian Federation minister of justice, met with journalists 9 December in the office which he is vacating.

Yuriy Khamzatovich declared that the main reason for his resignation is his disapproval of the top leadership's policy in respect of the Caucasus. This was not really news to the journalists.

The ex-minister stressed that policy pertaining to Chechnya is defined by the president, the government, and the Ministry of Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy, but they have no scientifically thought-out Caucasus policy. And this complex region does not allow for an impulsive approach on the basis of the subjective views of officials.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kalmykov criticized the government's forthright statement on nonrecognition of the sovereignty and independence of Abkhazia. "Already," he said, "nobody remembers how a people of 6 million led by Mr. Shevardnadze descended on the 100,000-strong people of Abkhazia with the clear aim of genocide."

Kalmykov is clearly annoyed that today's Ministry of Justice, "unlike the classic profile, does not incorporate the office of public prosecutor, or militia forces...." In addition, the Main Legal Administration under the president "impinges on the functions of the Ministry of Justice." The Main Legal Administration should serve the president, but it is involved in legislating and is composing a code of laws.

Kalmykov described as "insulting" the appointment of a militia school faculty chief as leader of the Commission for Judicial Reforms, and he declared that the thinking behind this appointment is, in point of fact, the transfer of the commission to the very same Main Legal Administration.

Communist Leader on Restoration of 'Union'

MM1312105394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 94 pp 1-2

[Interview with Oleg Shenin, chairman of Russia's Union of Communist Parties-CPSU council, by Aleksandr Golovenko; place and date not stated: "Oleg Shenin: 'Russia Destroyed Union—It Is for Russia To Restore It'"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is probably actually no accident that the fatal edict no. 1400 on the dissolution of Russia's supreme legislative power appeared 21 September—the day after the USSR people's congress. Only the draft could fail to hear the mighty appeal to people of different nationalities to unite. The greetings sent to the delegates by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov made it unequivocally clear that the Russian parliamentarians who laid the foundation to the collapse of the great power are prepared to atone for their guilt and to denounce the illegal Belovezhskaya Forest "agreements" on the abolition of the USSR.

"If that happens," Viktor Chikin, secretary of the Party of Communists of Belorussia [Belarus], tried to persuade his interlocutors in the corridors, "then the example of the Russian legislators will be followed by our own legislators and then by the Ukrainians. And the Soviet Union will be restored de jure."

But this was precisely what frightened the "democrats." The firing on the Russian parliament and the reprisals against unarmed defenders of the constitution repelled honest people and farsighted politicians of the near abroad from the ruling regime but could not halt the peoples' attraction toward unity and friendship. And on 13 December the envoys of 15 republics will again assemble at the "Izmaylovo" movie and concert hall for their second congress. As on the last occasion the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU [UCP-CPSU] was one of the main organizers. Our talk with Oleg Shenin, chairman of the UCP-CPSU council, began with questions which we have heard quite often this year: "How feasible is the restoration of a union state? Is this undertaking not Utopian if you consider that in a number of republics there are antipopular regimes which are waging interethnic wars with their neighbors?

[Shenin] Of course, it is simplest of all to do nothing and to smile skeptically, Oleg Semenovich replied. Like some recent "champions of the people" you can fade away and find some cosy spot in some foundation or set yourself up in the state power system, considering yourself to be a member of the opposition. But not everyone will manage to set himself up. Some people must grow grain, extract oil and coal, smelt metal, teach children, save science and culture, and cure people. And it is these exiles from the "market paradise" who are suffering most from the collapse of the Union.

Over the past year neither in Russia, whose authorities no one has hindered, nor in any republic of the so-called CIS and other "sovereign" and "nonsovereign" states has the working man started to live better, as the destroyers of the country promised. Today even many of those who used to shout at meetings and from the pages of the nationalist newspapers "Down with the Muscovite swine!" are beginning to realize that they will not survive without Russia's help. For many "sovereign" republics Russia has been and remains a donor of raw material. In some extremely separatist republics the authorities have already been obliged to introduce restrictions on the consumption of gas—there is nothing with which to settle accounts with the "insatiable Muscovite swine."

For instance, according to various reports Ukraine owes Russia over $1 billion while Belorussia's debt is over $420 million for gas and $40 million for oil. And it is no secret that our Slav brothers have nothing with which to pay—the coffers are empty. According to the IMF and the UN European Economic Commission, the socioeconomic development of the 10 CIS countries depends 60-70 percent on credits and loans from Russia and on preferential trading terms with us. And what would happen if we did not excuse them their debts and did not defer the payment dates indefinitely? The Russian people decried by many nationalists have already given shelter to hundreds of thousands of refugees who have had more than enough of "sovereignization," "freedom," and "resurrection."

I am constantly kept informed by communist party secretaries of the state of affairs in their republics. I could say a lot about how ordinary people are living in Georgia (school education has to be paid for), Uzbekistan, Armenia, and so forth. But I cannot keep quiet about feelings among the population of the Central Asian states. A Tajikistan Communist Party delegation traveled to Gornyy Badakhshan. It had to cross seven

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

customs posts on borders with other republics. Servicemen of various nationalities are serving there. But when they knew that they were dealing with Communists then there were no searches and they let them through immediately, telling them as they left to restore the Soviet Union as rapidly as possible. It is worth saying that in Tajikistan, which is living under civil war conditions, the Communists have already collected 1.5 million signatures from voters for the restoration of a union state.

You may remember that the need to restore the Union is now being discussed even by those Russian politicians who only yesterday were celebrating the victory over the "State Committee for the State of Emergency plotters" who tried to oppose the Novo-Ogarevskiy compact.

[Golovenko] One of the main trump cards of the "shock therapists" in Russia and other "independent" republics was Ostap Bender's catchphrase "The West will help us!" We were promised $24 billion for Gaydar's "reforms" but somehow we have still not gotten them. Why not?

[Shenin] The promises of foreign handouts so humiliating to our national self-awareness are entirely typical of the Western geopoliticians. It is important to demoralize a nation, to instill an inferiority complex, then it is easier to dictate one's own terms to it. Having invested billions of dollars in breaking the socialist system in the Warsaw Pact countries and in the transfer of their economies to a capitalist footing, the West long ago exhausted its free resources and is in no hurry at all to help the "sovereign states." If it does cough up it will be to maintain the raw material sectors and to destroy our nuclear potential. A powerful, independent, and prosperous Russia is necessary to no one but us. The ideal of a "world government" is a country split into dozens of separate principalities, torn by conflicts like the chechen one. The West will indeed help in blowing up such conflicts.

[Golovenko] Oleg Semenovich, after attending the first Congress of USSR Peoples and hearing the delegates' speeches, I am in no doubt that the republics' envoys will adopt the concept for the restoration of a union state which the communist parties' leaders have discussed twice this year at their sessions in Gorki Leninskiye. Could you describe it to readers in more detail?

[Shenin] It is a supraparty document, the fruit of collective developments by scientists, parties, movements, and religious groups. It reflects the entire complex of wishes and comments voiced in the republics by all interested organizations and people.

[Golovenko] But what are the association's principles?

[Shenin] In order not to bore the reader, I shall cite the basic ones: voluntariness, equal rights, commonality of interests and aims of the states belonging to the Union, general foundations of economic, political, and military structure, power of the people along the lines of the Soviets, and national in form. We can highlight three stages of rapprochement: first economic union, that is the restoration of destroyed economic ties. Then political unification, preparation and signing of a Union treaty. And finally the completion of the formation of state and managerial links in all spheres of public life and the adoption of a union Constitution. Of course this is only an outline and it is for the peoples themselves to breathe life into it and fill it with specific content.

[Golovenko] And what role is assigned in the future Union to the institution of presidential power? After all, we are so anxious to be like the West in every respect....

[Shenin] I understand your irony, but name me just one republic from the USSR in which a president "elected by all the people" has brought happiness, contentment, and peace to working people? Given the destroyed national economic complex that is impossible in principle. But there are plenty of conflicts with the legislators. The first and last president of the USSR proved unable to lead the great power and surrendered it without a single shot. B. Yeltsin, having received all conceivable and inconceivable powers from the deputies, drove Russia even deeper into the morass of crisis, and opened wide the gates to the plundering of its natural resources and the buying up of its raw material sectors and industrial potential. But even that is not the point, because ultimately out of 150 million people you can find one sensible leader who thinks in national terms. In our view the institution of the presidency contradicts the very spirit of the Russian people, whose way of life has for centuries been built on the principles of commonality, collectivism, the popular assembly, and the collective discussion and solution of all matters.

We are again the blatantly bourgeois principle of the separation of powers, when some people adopt laws and others must execute them. It is not for me to tell you the outcome in our country of the confrontation between the SUpreme Soviet and the government under the care of the president and the IMF. That is why we are for a collective president in the shape of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, which can be called something different in each sovereign republic. Executive and legal power should be subordinate to the soviets, based on the labor collectives.

[Golovenko] Have you not gotten the feeling that the rulers of the regimes in the republics will simply laugh at your Don Quixotism? How do you intend to fight for the implementation of your reunification concept?

[Shenin] There is a saying that he who laughs last laughs longest. Did Shushkevich and Kravchuk realize when they signed the blatantly criminal documents in the Belovezhskaya Forest what sentence the peoples would soon pass on them? At the time they were probably rubbing their hands in glee. Yet are the results of the 12 December elections in Russia not a warning to the regime?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

We realize that the national clans which rule in a number of republics will not embark on the creation of a union state. The princelings like to fly on their Boeings to foreign countries where they are rendered unprecedented honors. But behind these honors is not personal respect but the desire to lay hands as adroitly as possible on the natural resources of the countries where these leaders [vozhdi] rule.

At the same time we single out nationally minded leaders of neighboring states from the USSR and we have sent them invitations to take part in the congress. We shall seek to ensure that its participants become a powerful nucleus for creating in their own homes groups, committees, and soviets (including at enterprises) which would fight—and I mean fight—for the restoration of the Union.

Only after the restoration of the power of the people and the union state will working people again be able to become masters of their destiny and to ensure a fitting life for themselves and their children. We will also agree with the historical mission of Russia, to which neighboring peoples have always been drawn. Russia, with its mindless struggle for "sovereignty," laid the foundation to the Union's destruction. It should also be the first to set an example, holding out a hand of friendship to adjacent nations and ethnic groups. We must realize that without Russia there will be no Union but without the Union there will be no great Russia.

Officials Discuss Chechnya Policy

LD1212213194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1725 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Video interview with Russian Presidential Aide Georgiy Satarov, Presidential Council Member Leonid Smirnyagin, and Mark Urnov, head of analysis center under Russian president, by Sergey Dorenko on 12 December in Moscow; from the "Details" program—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Dorenko] The departments in the area of the Chechnya conflict have now been made accountable to Grachev and the Defense Ministry. Is not this a strange situation? It would seem there is no state of emergency, and yet it seems to exist. What does this mean?

[Satarov] This is what it means: Under the enforced law on the state of emergency, only MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] troops can be used in a state of emergency zone. MVD troops have no resources to crush Dudayev's heavy hardware. Among the operating normative acts, there is an article on an armed conflict zone. It is cited in the president's decree and the government's resolution: An armed conflict zone is a zone where Defense Ministry troops may be used. In the given case they are being used—and they are used, as the Government has decreed—solely to overcome the heavy hardware of illegal armed formations. This function of the Defense Ministry troops is underpinned by the law regulating actions, and the rights and protection of the rights of servicemen in armed conflict zones.

[Dorenko] So, the military are now assuming an especially important role in the state, trying to salvage Russia's integrity. Would this situation not allow the military to resolve all their problems, that is the 110-trillion ouble budget, while all the sins, the Mercedes, and the Burlakovs will now be written off, because the military are now seen as heroes.

[Smirnyagin] This danger exists, of course. The current events are a serious spasm in the state's life, but we have to go for it. There are other dangers, too. There is talk that this situation might move our country toward a police state. But we must try to avoid it. Definitely. I do not think the military will demand any special rights in this situation, because that is not up to them.

[Dorenko] They have so far been paid each time they have acted as heroes. [passage omitted: repeats himself]

[Smirnyagin] The tasks of the military are quite limited in Chechnya: to overcome the heavy military hardware which is at Dudayev's disposal. That is their only task. Everything else is up to the MVD. Finally, we do not know how this conflict will end. Rumor has it that the military have already achieved victory, as it were. I do not think this has ever been in their plans. How can the situation in Chechnya or the suppression of an internal conflict be a matter of victory for the armed forces? [passage omitted: says the idea is absurd]

[Dorenko] There is now the belief that the Chechnya situation has been brought about as part of the Kremlin's and Moscow's internal struggle. The Chechnya card is being played in a much grander game—it is necessary to show toughness, to show decisiveness. And Chechnya is used just for this purpose. Why not?

[Smirnyagin] You are wrong, of course, although your question is almost rhetorical. The fact is, this problem could have been tackled, but we simply did not have the strength. I have in mind the federal authorities. The circumstances were against us. First, there was the fear that, after the USSR, Russia itself would disintegrate. Now this situation no longer exists, everybody knows. Even the opposition leaders have removed the sloguns about self- destruction, etc. Zviadist Georgia used to be Chechnya's neighbor. The Dudayev regime has now become economically obsolete in many respects, and is discredited at least in the eyes of part of the population. The situation has changed since then. This is evident from the fact that Dudayev has now opted for talks, and he is not alone.

Four people will be sitting at the negotiation table: Galazov, Russia, and representatives of official Groznyy and the Chechen opposition. It is a myth that the whole of the Chechen people have rallied around General Dudayev. That is by no means true. It would not be true

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to say that throughout all these years we have not been interested in Chechnya. That is not at all true. Chechnya has been our sore spot in the extreme, especially because the Dudayev government is not able to radically resolve the situation. We have even been embarassed in front of the world community. It is unthinkable for any mature state to be in the situation whereby a territory within its borders illegally declares a regime which for 3 years has categorically refused to recgnize central power. [passage omitted: says the aim is not to seize Gorznyy but to block the pockets of armed confrontation and to supervise disarmament]

[Dorenko] There is the view that the overwhelming majority of Chechens are in favor of Dudayev, even those who openly dislike him. And these people are ready to fight. That is just the beginning for a Chechen Ulster, where every street will be patrolled for the next 10-20 years. [passage omitted: says more of the same]

[Satarov] In theory, that is possible. Therefore, everything must be done extremely neatly, and the main aim must be set out the way it has been set out by the president. In other words, the problem should be resolved by political means.

[Urnov] Ulsterization is possible in only one case—if indeed large-scale operations are started by the Russian troops against the whole of the population. This has been categorically forbidden by the president. It is another matter that war depends on incidents, and there may be provocations, but the president's order is absolutely unequivocal and the troops must comply with this order. If the troops fail to comply with this order, then the likelihood of an Ulster sharply increases. [passage omitted: exchange in uncertain terms on Russians and Chechens killed in the last 3 years; Satarov says that the situation in which these people were killed must now be removed]

Chernomyrdin Stresses Need for Chechnya Decree

LD1312105094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1035 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 13 TASS—Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin substantiated the need for enacting the Russian president's decree on Chechnya as well as on the Ossetian-Ingush conflict with the life of hundreds of people who fell victims of an attempt "to subvert integrity of the Russian state as well as of national and religious strife".

He addressed a conference of the Russian civil servants academy on Tuesday.

According to the premier, "the only thing for which the Russian government can be reproached, is that we were patient and waited for three years, without taking necessary measures, including negotiations, as well as were not insistent and consistent in normalising the situation in Chechnya".

"We shall do our utmost for the life of people in Groznyy and throughout Chechnya return to normal," the premier said. He stressed that the road of negotiations is regarded by the Russian government "as the most efficient and the most fruitful to normalise the situation".

Chernomyrdin said that the government could not put up with a situation any longer when traces of drug and arms trafficking stretch across the country from Russia's south due to complete absence of control over criminals.

The premier stressed that Russia would not permit Chechnya to prevent deliveries of vitally important goods to Transcaucasia where the only railway in the region runs through the Chechen Republic.

Describes Situation as 'Complex'

LD1312112794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1003 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Dec—Democracy does not mean the absence of power, order, and conscious discipline. The fragile power which is guided by passions and emotions whipped up at rallies is not capable of protecting anyone. This opinion was expressed by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today at a conference "Women and Development, Rights, Reality, and Prospects."

The prime minister described the situation in Chechnya as "extremely complex." He said that constitutional tasks of the Russian armed forces are to "guarantee the territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, peace, calm, and security of Russia." That is why, he said, army and interior ministry subunits are now in the zone of the conflict. "The government will not allow armed force to be used as a pawn in political games. We will not allow any pressure on servicemen who carry out their constitutional duty."

Duma Deputy Opposes Use of Force

LD1212204294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Dec—"Using military force in Chechnya is suicidal for Russian power, as this step will incite the whole Caucasus against the Federal center, and will lead to numerous casualties." That is the stand of Konstantin Zatulin, State Duma deputy and chairman of the Committee for CIS Affairs and Ties with Compatriots, stated in an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. At the same time, he stressed that he supports the observance of the Russian Constitution throughout the whole of the country.

Zatulin believes that "the use of military force in Chechnya is not substantiated politically," and a number

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of higher officials in Russia "are not interested in holding real, rather than feigned talks with the Chechen side." He believes that this is evidenced by the composition of the Russian delegation to the talks, which is not empowered to make state decisions.

The chairman of the State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Ties with Compatriots calls "for halting stop the Russian troops in Chechnya and to begin talks between the leaders of Russia and the Chechen Republic." In his view such a meeting "will neither lower the dignity of the Russian president nor add to it, but by this step he will protect the lives of his fellow citizens".

Kozyrev Warns Chechens Against Agression

LD1312120994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 13—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev spoke of inevitability to continue using force in Chechnya if local illegal detachments refuse to disarm.

Replying to journalists' questions after the end of talks with Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen, Kozyrev said: "If Chechnya does not disarm, the Russian state will be forced to use as much force as necessary to establish law and order."

A settlement of the situation in the Chechen Republic is Russia's domestic affair, the minister stressed. He noted that most countries treat with understanding "measures taken by the president to protect the constitution throughout the Russian Federation."

Kozyrev expressed hope for success of the current negotiations in Vladikavkaz to settle the Chechen conflict.

Notes 'Use Force To Restore Order'

LD1212195694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1810 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev believed that "the state has a right to use force to restore law and order" and "this is exactly what is going on in Chechnya," he said in response to an Interfax's question in Moscow Monday when he had a meeting with a group of Russian journalists.

He objected to the view that any use of force was unacceptable. "One should not confuse a surgeon's lancet with a gangster's dagger," Kozyrev said.

He argued that all the countries understood why Russia had to resort to tough measures in Chechnya and regarded the events there as Russia's internal affair. Kozyrev added that in the U.S., too, they used the police, the national guard and the army to restore law and order. The use of the army is allowed by the Code of Behavior adopted by the recent CSCE Budapest summit, he said.

Kozyrev did not believe that the Chechen events were a prelude to tightening the screws throughout Russia. He recalled that in 1971 [as received] the Bolsheviks started executions by a firing squad in the center of the country and only later send cavalry to the faraway regions populated by ethnic minorities. Kozyrev said that Boris Yeltsin was not Aleksandr Kerenskiy whose mistakes resulted in the first democratic experiment in Russia degenerating in the victory of the Bolsheviks.

In his words, the action taken by the Russian authorities in Chechnya were designed to protect the constitutional rights of ethnic Chechens who were Russian citizens. Kozyrev said that the president had to do it because there was no other way to deal with the problems arising from the activities of armed separatists in Chechnya. He did not advocate the use of force all the time on certain occasions when there was no alternative to it.

Kozyrev expressed the hope that "the Groznyy leaders will do what the president of Russia tells them to and disarm." He said that the amnesty would hold until December 15 and later those people could defend their ideas in free elections. Asked by Interfax whether the Chechen events would influence the situation in other Moslem republics of the Russian Federation, Kozyrev said he would not divide Russian citizens by religion, all confessions being equal in Russia.

In response to an Interfax question about his attitude towards the Russia's Choice parliamentary group, Kozyrev said that he had never been its member and had been elected to the Duma as an independent candidate from the Murmansk Region.

The group and Russia's Democratic Choice leader Yegor Gaydar had denounced the Russian authorities for the use of force in Chechnya. Kozyrev made it clear that, in his view, the activities of Russia's Choice were dictated by political considerations. He said that he did not have to think of such things as he did not intend to run for presidency in the next elections.

Working Group Agrees on Disarmament

LD1212173294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is Mayak correspondent Vladimir Pasko with a report on Chechnya. We have a link with the interim news center of the Russian Government.

[Pasko] First about the talks in Vladikavkaz. We have just received a report on the first accords reached by the working commission [words indistinct] headed by Mikhaylov. The Chechen interim council promised to cease fighting and carry out disarmament as agreed. In addition, the delegation of the interim council will provide the working commission of the Russian Government with a list of those taken prisoner in Chechnya with a view to their release through the mediation of the Red Cross. The talks with official Groznyy are proceeding with greater difficulty. Mikhaylov proposed discussion of three tasks: secession of bloodshed, disarmament, and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

creation of conditions for the restoration of normal life. The official Groznyy delegation has thus far agreed with the need to carry out disarmament in Chechnya. The talks are continuing. As we supposed, they are held separately: one with the Groznyy delegation and one with the interim council delegation.

Rybkin Hopes for Avoidance of Force

LD1212151494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1450 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin called for the restoration of constitutional norms and order in the separatist Republic of Chechnya on Monday.

Rybkin shared the concern about the Chechen conflict voiced by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in his address to the two houses of the parliament—the State Duma and the Federation Council—today.

In an interview with Russian television, Rybkin urged the Army and Interior Ministry troops to prevent the aggravation of the conflict and confine their actions to sealing off the Chechen Republic and its capital, Groznyy, but without using force.

The chairman of the lower house of parliament stressed that Chechnya, which is a member of the Russian Federation, should live by the Russian Constitution and Russian laws. Otherwise, civilians will be the ones who will suffer most of all, he added.

Rybkin called for a peaceful solution to the conflict, which, in his view, erupted back in September 1991 when the first blood was spilt in the republic.

Rybkin urged the deputies to resolve the problem on the basis of law, adding that the State Duma will hold a session on December 13 to discuss the situation in Chechnya and ways to settle the crisis.

Troops in Chechen Have 'No Shoot' Orders

LD1212133094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The heads of the Federation Council's committees have been discussing the situation in Chechnya this morning. [passage omitted] Vladimir Shumeyko has approved the introduction of Russian troops into Chechnya. There is no reason to panic, the Federation Council chairman believes. The military who entered Chechnya received orders not to shoot. [passage omitted]

[Begin Shumeyko recording] The question is clear and unambiguous—whether the Russian state continues to be an integral state, a state which is being reckoned with in the world, as we often say, a strong state and so on, or not. The question stands like this. We will try and discuss this issue at a meeting of the Federation Council and adopt an appropriate decision. [end recording]

Vladimir Shumeyko hopes that the talks which are currently under way in Vladikavkaz will be successful because none of the sides is interested in bloodshed.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] However, if this does not happen, I think that in this case the troops that are now there will try to do things in such a way as not to harm civilians. [end recording] [video shows meeting, news conference]

Medical Unit Provides Casualty Report

LD1312122494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 13—Altogether nine Russian servicemen have been killed and 14 wounded so far in Chechnya since Russian troops started to pour in three days ago, a source in the medical units of the Russian troops deployed in Mozdok on the Chechen border, told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday.

Out of them, six people were killed and 12 wounded in Monday's missile attack by President Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters at a Russian convoy near the village of Dolinskiy, 15 kilometres (ten miles) shy of Groznyy.

All the injured receive medical treatment in Mozdok.

Economic Issues

Davydov Discusses Investment Policy

MM1312114194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 3

[Interview feature by Igor Melnikov: "Investments: Still a Puzzle"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vienna—The word "investments" is in vogue at the moment. Remember what hopes we pinned on attracting foreign investments a year or so ago: the introduction of advanced technology, deliveries of machinery and equipment, expansion of exports, improved management of production and marketing, exploitation of untapped Russian scientific and technical potential. Alas, stark reality has ruthlessly clipped the wings of hope.

My interlocutors were very different people—indeed, in that way you can cover a wide variety of interests and approaches. There was as a member of the present Cabinet of Ministers in Moscow, an acknowledged professional and expert at his job, unlike some of his colleagues. A Russian entrepreneur who has lived in the West for six years and whose holding company, with its headquarters in Vienna, is rightly regarded here as a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

successful foreign firm. An Austrian executive, who was the sponsor of the recent international conference "Investments in Russia."

All three interviews were conducted in Vienna over a period of a few days. So the interlocutors were unable to influence one another's replies and each was able to decide what he regarded as the priorities. All I had to do was to group the pronouncements according to topics.

[Melnikov] What levers have been actuated in the investment process and which have been unproductive?

Russian Government Vice Premier Oleg Davydov:

The Russian Federation Government has devised a program covering the investment sphere. There is a package of legislative acts and edicts, specifically a draft law on foreign investments prepared by the State Duma. A consultative council was set up under the prime minister to develop dialogue with foreign investors. It comprises a number of leading ministers and representatives of 14 world companies with a turnover in excess of $100 billion. This council, which draws up recommendations to improve the normative base for the attraction of investments, will help us take a more realistic view of the programs and laws being adopted. All this put together will encourage investors at home and abroad to increase investments in the Russian economy.

Now we come to an important and essentially unutilized lever. At the moment potential Russian investors are unlikely to start investing money in their own country's economy until we get foreign capital coming in. [passage omitted]

[Melnikov] What forms of collaboration is the "investor-enterprise-state" triangle assuming? Is everything fine and dandy on today's playing field?

O. Davydov: What should the government be doing in the current mixed economy conditions in Russia (the private sector accounts for roughly 40-50 percent and the state sector accounts for the rest)? Where you have the private sector, the government, in principle, should be providing guarantees to go with federal programs. For example, we have a program for the development of baby food production. And if a private entrepreneur says he is prepared to construct a new plant or modernize an existing one to that end, then the state is obliged to give him assistance, because he is tackling a federal-level task. It can be preferential credits, tax exemptions, and guarantees for foreign investments.

As for the state sector, here, I believe, we must preserve the kind of vertical structure we had in the former Soviet Union. State enterprises must be controllable, since they belong to the whole people. And not as sometimes happens today: a state enterprise run by the general director as if it is his own property. We must not have a situation where an enterprise has no money for pay, while the general director is driving around in a Mercedes.

The government's investment policy is manifested as follows. Aside from guarantees, the state will provide 20-30 percent of the funding for federally owned facilities. The remaining funds will come from investors or will be sought by the enterprises themselves. [passage omitted]

Duma Deputy on "Realistic" 1995 Budget Proposal

MM1312113594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 94 First Edition p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Pochinok, deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee for the Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finances; "We Should Abolish Mondays. The Question That is Being Resolved Today Is Less About the Budget Than About Where We Are Headed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Any unbiased expert will tell you that the proposed 1995 draft budget is much fuller and more realistic than this year's. Its strongest aspect is that it rejects the uncontrolled and unlimited borrowing of resources from the Central Bank and aims to cover the deficit using noninflationary sources.

What will the new budget give Joe public? First of all a sharp reduction in inflation—by the end of 1995 prices should be rising by just 2 percent a month. By that date you will be able to go into the stores without being afraid of seeing more zeroes on the price labels. Second, there will be a fairly stable exchange rate for the national currency: You will no longer have to rack your brains every pay day and decide whether to rush off to the bureau de change to turn your rubles [R] into dollars before the rate falls.

The very possibility of "Black Tuesdays" will disappear just as it has in Estonia, for example. It will more profitable to keep your money in rubles than in dollars and it will be advantageous generally to keep your money in the bank, to accumulate, and to invest. This, after all, is the main condition of the restructuring that we are being encouraged to make.

Yes, budget revenue has been seriously overestimated—we are talking about R10 trillion here. But I would venture to remind those people shedding crocodile tears that it was we who drew your attention to the fact that last year's budget revenue was far more unrealistic. Look at who submitted the corresponding amendments in spring and summer. But at that time many people did not believe us and tried to force another R30 trillion of already completely unrealistic revenue into the budget. All this became clear not even six months later.

Even more surprising is the position of those who quite recently were calling for an increase in revenue from privatization and from the sale and use of state property but now, when items of revenue amounting to any trillions have finally been added to the budget under those headings, have suddenly changed their course and are trying to reduce them.

A strange and hypocritical position has been taken by those highly professional economists who, while understanding perfectly the subtleties of the budget process, on

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the one hand mercilessly beat the Finance Ministry for making errors which can be remedied but, on the other, slyly make a decision which immediately increases budget spending on wages by 150 percent and completely wrecks all the budget ratios. It is strange that this proposal has been introduced by those very people who are perfectly capable of working out the consequences and who are aware of the host of examples whereby such decisions have literally destroyed an economy.

The budget prepared by Sokolov and Gilbo is like a beautiful great soap bubble. What an idea—to print 300 trillion new rubles (for information's sake, that is enough [paper] to build a bridge to the moon) and abolish taxes for three years. Of course, taxes, like Mondays, are very inconvenient things, and many people are itching to abolish them. But remember: The unforgettable Popandopulo also printed millions on behalf of hetman Pan Gritsman Tavricheskiy [reference unknown].... If you follow the path proposed by Messrs Sokolov and Gilbo, you would do well to write on the reverse of the new banknotes the following legend: "Equivalent in value to toilet paper."

The slogan of support for industrial enterprises is being repeated with a persistence worthy of better application. At first glance it seems logical—enterprises are standing idle and we want to carry out structural changes. So the state must help. The only problem is that such help will make things worse for the state and the enterprises themselves.

Remember how over three months in summer the Central Bank issued R17 trillion in credits—but in the same period the commercial banks bought foreign currency to the tune of R16 trillion. State resources issued to the regions both in the form of transfers and as investment programs are being used extremely badly. There is no system of distributing resources more inefficient than via the state budget. Resources are collected from efficient enterprises and distributed to backward ones, which merely increases the number of bankrupts. All the budget options oriented on the further distribution of state resources lead simply to an increase in prices and nothing more.

The budget presented by the government could be a broad basis for joint work. There are many shortcomings in it and they must be rectified promptly. Of course, the method of transfers needs a complete revision. You cannot improve the position of the southern territories at the expense of those in the north; the transfer of federal budget funds to a territory must be directly linked to tax receipts from it.

There has to be a detailed breakdown of the military budget. All expenditure on housing construction must be allocated to an independent, protected section of the budget. Funds for the reduction and elimination of arms must also be set aside and protected. It is not a normal situation to have mines produced back in 1905 stored at dumps just waiting to explode. We want the rapid reduction of the Army's numerical strength precisely because we want to see our soldiers well fed and well armed.

There must also be a special budget item to cover the cost of commemorating Victory Day. Clearly, the adoption of the budget will be delayed, so for that reason we are asking the Duma to adopt a special law on special expenses connected with the 50th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War Victory. The point is that all these funds—for gifts and cash payments to veterans, for the construction of memorials on Poklonnaya Hill and Prokhorovka, and for the Victory Parade—are needed in full right now, otherwise it will be too late.

The majority of budget items for science, culture, and education must be revised and increased.

A single social allowance should have been introduced long ago to replace the plethora of meager handouts that exist now.

The revenue section of the budget needs to be adjusted because it is not possible to collect all the taxes in full.

There are also amendments aimed at reducing budget expenditure, primarily the cost of maintaining the administrative apparatus.

But those who are so convinced that the budget is bad ought to be consistent. They supported the vote of no confidence in this government. In that case let it implement the budget—if they are right, it will fail and will go of its own accord.

In reality they do not want to support this budget, because they are well aware that once it is implemented and the reform program succeeds, winning will be highly problematical for left-wing forces. This budget will not give much scope to those people who are fond of making election promises.

Military & Space Issues

Budget Cuts Endanger Manned Space Program

MM1312121594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 2

[Article by Vitaliy Golovachev featuring interview with Boris Ostroumov, deputy general director of the Russian Space Agency: "Weightlessness, in the Sense That There Is No Money. The Manned Flight Program Could Be Terminated in Late February 1995"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Russian space exploration has approached a critical, extraordinary milestone. The question is this: Either we succeed in preserving our industry, or it is destroyed." Yuriy Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency [RSA], made this statement last Thursday [8 December].

It is a question of money. Specialists set the minimum required for research and experimental design work this

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

year at 1,019.7 billion rubles [R]. And R530 billion was needed to procure series-produced rockets. Government leaders concurred. But the budget featured quite different figures: R610 billion for research and experimental design work and R280 billion for the procurement of series-produced rockets. Painful "cuts" had been made. However, the plants did not even receive this money. In actual fact funding totaled around half the amounts that had already been severely cut (R305 and R145 billion respectively). This has put space explorations in a very difficult position.

And these are not just words. The facts illustrate a rapid increase in extremely negative trends. In the last three years 115,000 engineering and technical personnel and 90,000 workers—the best and most experienced cadres—have left their enterprises. Two hundred thousand people! Missile-space plants are losing their gold reserve—their most skilled people. It is easy to destroy things, but it will be impossible to reassemble these people later. And each of them has unique knowledge and experience that have been acquired over decades.

Plant equipment is becoming rapidly outdated. Some 80 percent of the equipment has already been in operation for over 10 years, around half for 20 years (notwithstanding the norm for upgrading at these enterprises of five to seven years). People at many plants are working reduced hours—four shifts a week—and production is even being shut down altogether for a month or two and workers sent on leave.

Samara's "Progress" plant—our main base enterprise manufacturing rockets (Vostok, Voskhod, Molniya, Soyuz, Energiya) and assembling satellites—currently has eight rockets without engines, which the plant workers have not received from associated plants. "Progress" is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary (before the revolution it manufactured bicycles and then aircraft), but the holiday is more like a tragedy. Debt on credits stands at R63 billion and the plant is listed as a potential bankrupt, wages have only been paid for September, and the number of personnel has been cut by 8,000.

Today there are 169 pieces of Russian equipment in space, but only 54 are still under warranty. The warranty on 70 percent of the communications, television, meteorological, and long-range probing satellites has expired. Let me explain for the uninitiated what this means. If a spacecraft's warranty period has expired, it could go out of action at any moment. In other words, the country could be left without television (the single information field that is so essential today would be destroyed), without communications, without weather forecasts.... Because 6,059 of the 7,303 transmitters which relay the "Ostankino" First Channel operate via space. And 2,773 of the 2,929 of the Russian Channel transmitters operate via space....

[Ostroumov] This year there have already been malfunctions in transmitting television programs where relay in a number of parts of the country was suspended for two weeks. In the near future the situation could deteriorate dramatically. Let me cite another example. There are currently 12 communications and television facilities in geostationary orbit, but only five of them are still under warranty, and in a year that will drop to just one. Can you imagine what that is like?

The RSA has just received notification of a prestrike situation at the V.P. Glushko "Energomash" Science-and-Production Association, which manufactures rocket engines. Workers have not been paid for two months now (their wages, incidentally, are extremely modest) and are unable to carry on living like that. The upshot being that launches are being postponed and schedules wrecked.

In 1994 Russia was unable to launch the "Resurs" satellite to photograph the Earth along with the "Interbol" satellite under an international program which envisaged putting four craft into orbit—one European, one U.S., and two of ours. The whole program has been postponed because of Russia's failure. A space probe to Mars was not launched either. This project involves 22 countries; they have already spent $300 million.... Well, "economies" were made on even one launch to the Mir station—instead of two Progress rockets they sent one.... Our space exploration program does not have a single rocket in reserve today, nor a single reserve ship—everything is used "hand to mouth".... The RSA was recently forced to use four military rockets.

But the most alarming thing lies in store for us next year. The year 1995 could see the beginning of the total destruction of the missile-space industry. Since funding laid down in the 1995 budget leaves us with virtually no chance of survival. Judge for yourselves: In order to preserve and maintain at least what we have the sector needs R2.2 trillion, but it is being given R1.2 trillion.

[Golovachev] Can you not survive through commercial activity?

[Ostroumov] That is impossible in principle, as illustrated by the experience of all the countries in the "space pool." First, the country's defense capability depends on the standard of its space rocket equipment. This is a question of state expenditure, and no commercial activity can make up for it. Second, the national space industry is the leader in mastering high technologies and in many respects blazes the trail for the industry of the future. This is a matter not only of the country's image but also of the progress of its economy. What is more, it is very important for a developed state to be independent in such a promising sphere as space exploration. Last, the sector provides employment for many people as well as access to the world market for the country.

Here is a clear example. France and other countries within the European Space Agency [ESA] are developing the Ariane-5 rocket. The program will cost them a considerable sum—$7 billion. We have said to ESA representatives: How many launches per year do you need? Six to eight? Go ahead and use our Proton rocket: You can save vast sums of money, and the rocket is extremely reliable.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"No," the ESA representatives replied. "For better or worse, we will do it ourselves. It certainly does involve vast expenditure, but we cannot deprive 36,000 Europeans of jobs...." In 1994 countries in the "space pool" have allocated $50 billion in state funds for the development of missile-space equipment. They are certainly no fools....

[Golovachev] There have been a lot of reports of joint contracts between our plants and foreign firms, of an agreement between the RSA and NASA....

[Ostroumov] That is all true, but the total number of agreements and contracts represents just a fourth of our requirements. You must realize that there is no one particularly waiting for us on the world market. The idea that Uncle Sam will save the Russian space industry is an illusion.

[Golovachev] How much work is our space industry doing compared with 1985?

[Ostroumov] Less than a third. And that is the very limit. If we drop any further, the industry will be ruined. Some things will perish faster, some later, but extinction will be guaranteed. The dreaded precursor is already here. A few days ago the general director of the "Energiya" Science-and-Production Association (this enterprise was previously led by S.P. Korolev) sent letters to Russian President B. Yeltsin and Premier V. Chernomyrdin saying that, if funding for next year is not reviewed, the manned flight program will be terminated in late February. The multibillion debts are increasing and it is no longer possible to break the deadlock this time without the state's help....

I would like to hope that this SOS will be heard. It is not a matter of issuing another resolution on the letter—what are needed are effective measures. Incidentally, there have already been 25 resolutions by eminent leaders on previous appeals, but this has had little effect on the real state of affairs.

The destruction of the missile-space industry will cost far more than the sum being demanded now.. Some $1.5 billion will be required to lease foreign television and communications satellites and further huge sums for the ground equipment (since ours is not compatible). That means many many trillions of rubles. Having "saved" 1 trillion today, we will be handing out 5 trillion tomorrow and 10 trillion the day after.... [Ostroumov ends]

Following my conversation with B. Ostroumov I spoke to many other specialists in the space industry. To be objective I must point out that the current level of missile-space technology and developments in Russia is still fairly high at the moment. When it comes to a number of fundamental positions we are ahead of the United States and other countries. In a word, it will be possible by incredible effort to preserve the sector's potential (albeit in truncated form). But tomorrow we could lose all this. I would like members of the government and State Duma deputies to be fully aware of that.

New Booster Solves Launch Problem

MM1312123794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1145 GMT 6 Dec 94

[From the "Partner" program: Video report on Lavochkin Design Bureau booster by Vladimir Khomyakov, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Khomyakov over view of the Earth from space, space launch] As is known, a substantial number of satellites need to be placed in geostationary orbits. The further north a cosmodrome is located, the smaller the payload that can be placed in such orbits with existing delivery vehicles. Russia's Plesetsk is located a good deal further north than Baykonur. There are only two solutions to this problem—developing a new delivery vehicle, or building a new cosmodrome further south.

[Khomyakov to camera and over video of "Fregat" booster] I have no idea how much the implementation of either of these projects would cost the country. No one is prepared to quote an exact figure. However, it is perfectly obvious that it would take between five and seven years and cost tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars. I am sure that either project could find influential sponsors, not just among desert sultans but also among our ranking military. The militarization of such projects offers appreciable opportunities.

But there is a third solution. It has been put forward by specialists at the well-known Lavochkin Design Bureau. They have designed and built a booster with the romantic name "Fregat." Incorporated in the third stage of existing delivery vehicles, it makes it possible to place satellites in any orbit, including geostationary orbits, from Plesetsk as if it were Baykonur.

The most interesting fact about the booster is that all its components have already undergone the most reliable of tests. They have been used in the past by the Lavochkin Design Bureau as part of various other flying craft and have proved their reliability. Now all these components have been assembled in a single unit and merely require testing as a whole. This would take just one year and cost $3 million. It is all so simple, quick, and cheap that it is hard to believe. However, the realistic nature of the "Fregat" project rests on the worldwide prestige of the Lavochkin Design Bureau, which has built a whole series of unique space stations and holds seven world "firsts" in the sphere of space exploration. The sooner Russia shakes off its dependence on Baykonur, the better. The Lavochkin Design Bureau project would enable it to do so in the near future.

[Khomyakov to camera] So what will Russia choose? Developing a new delivery vehicle, building a new cosmodrome, or making use of something that already exists? One way or another, the choice will have to be made, since Russia is destined to be a space power.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Federal Assembly

Duma Backs Yeltsin Decree on Chechen Arms Surrender

LD1312111994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1110 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 13 TASS—The Council of the Russian State Duma backed President Boris Yeltsin's decree of December 1 which extends the deadline for arms surrender by the warring Chechen sides until December 15.

The decree offers an amnesty to those Chechen militants who voluntarily lay down arms and were not involved in grave crimes against civilian population.

Chairman of the Duma Committee on Security Viktor Ilyukhin told TASS on Tuesday that it is also possible to agree with the proposal of the president to join the monitoring commission which would control the human rights and the restoration of the constitutional order in Chechnya. This will add prestige and importance to the commission and allow its members to get first-hand information, according to Ilyukhin.

However, Ilyukhin refused to disclose the opiniopn of the Duma Council about the address of the president in which he called on lawmakers to refrain from seeking political dividends in Chechnya, but join efforts in resolving the crisis there.

"The document should be discussed also at a meeting of the chamber and additional proposals and a draft resolution are to be drafted after that", Ilyukhin said.

Chechnya: Tank Columns Reportedly Blocked

LD1212092894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from Pavel Guskov, our North Caucasus correspondent, the rally is continuing in Groznyy. Fortifications are being set up around the town perimeter.

Russian troops have occupied the Nadterechnyy Rayon. From the direction of Ingushetia, a tank column has been blocked in the vicinity of the village of Yandyrka, and there are even reports that the troops have turned back toward Mozdok.

From the direction of Dagestan, on the frontier with Chechnya, a column has also been blocked.

Federation Council To Convene Emergency Sitting

LD1212222094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2200 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly will convene for an emergency sitting on 16 December, said Vladimir Shumeyko, head of the parliament's upper chamber, following his conference with the chairmen of the Federation Council's committees.

The speaker said the course of the implementation of the Council's resolution on the situation in Chechnya would be discussed. The Russian president's appeal to deputies, promising he would make a speech to them in the nearest future, would also be discussed.

Apart from that, senators intend to ask Boris Yeltsin to give them on 15 December the name of the candidate for the only remaining vacant seat in the Constitutional Court.

Votes Down Law on Media Support

MM1212133694 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Federation Council" rubric: "Law Voted Down"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the Federation Council examined and voted down the Russian Federation law on state support for the mass media and publishing, adopted by the State Duma 23 November 1994. In the opinion of the upper chamber's deputies, a number of the law's provisions as well as organizational and legal mechanisms enshrined in it run counter to current legislation and the Russian Federation Constitution. Apart from this, under the new law, the government is absolutely deprived of an opportunity to implement state policy on the mass media as the functions in question are being transferred to the national foundation for the development of the mass media.

The proposal to create this foundation, which under the law receives what are in essence state powers and functions, is in particular giving rise to objections. The upper chamber's deputies consider that to all intents and purposes this gives it a monopoly over the mass media, and in the opinion of the majority of deputies the emergence of such a monopoly is simply unacceptable.

The Federation Council yesterday confirmed the Russian Federation Presidential Edict of 2 December 1994 "On the Imposition of a State of Emergency on Part of the Territories of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic."

Shumeyko Address on Army Funding Cited

MM1212133194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Dec 94 pp 1,2

[Report incorporating excerpts from Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko's address to Federal Assembly Deputies: "Will the Sharp Reduction in the Military Budget Not Lead to the Degradation of the Armed Forces?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the near future the Russian Federal Assembly will have to examine and adopt the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russian Federation federal budget for 1995. The document, which is currently being intensively revised by the organs of state administration, is of exceptional significance for the Russian Armed Forces, because it will determine their position and prospects of development, not only in the near future, but also, essentially, until the end of the millenium.

Nor should legislators ignore the circumstance that the Army and Navy have now found themselves in a most severe financial crisis, and that this is making it difficult to carry out the tasks facing them even now. Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, expressed concern at the prevailing situation in his recent speech to the State Duma members, and our newspaper has been trying to convey this concern to the broad strata of the public in articles of recent months.

More and more state officials share this viewpoint. Thus, the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA editorial office received the text of the address given by Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federal Assembly Federation Council, to Federal Assembly Federation Council and State Duma deputies. It notes in particular:

"Assessments of the draft budget which has been elaborated by the government are mixed. Among the various forces of Russian society, there is a war of views going on as regards the aims and phases of reforming the economy. Questions of the procedure and volume of taxation are being debated. A dispute is going on about methods of supporting domestic commodity producers. The question of whether the tough draft budget put to the Federal Assembly by the government will lead to a new spiral in the fall in production, and possibly, to its complete paralysis, has not been clarified.

"To my mind, the problem of the budget funding of the Russian Army is extremely acute. It is obvious that we have arrived at one of the most difficult periods in the history of the Russian Armed Forces. Military reform has been going on for two years now. The numerical strength of the personnel has been reduced considerably. In accordance with the adopted commitments, troops have been withdrawn from East Europe and the Baltic area. Following the agreements signed with Western states, Russia has sharply reduced its weapons arsenals. The state order and purchases of new military hardware have been reduced significantly....

"The situation in the Air Force, which was the pride of our country until recently, generates particular alarm. Units and large units have stopped being reequipped with new aircraft. Material and technical backup has deteriorated. The infrastructure of the aviation rear services has been half destroyed. Breakdowns and accidents have been continuing. The highest ever accident rate in aviation testifies to an incipient process of extinction of this branch of service, because the safety of flights in peacetime most fully characterizes its potential as a combat component of the Army.

"Without adopting special government measures requiring federal funding, military aviation may lose its potential in terms of its very purpose.

"Clearly we cannot solve the problem of sufficient funding for the country's defense and security in all spheres without exception in a cardinal way, Vladimir Shumeyko believes, but we are simply obliged to single out definite priorities and ensure reliable state support for them. The Military Space Forces, which represent long-term developments for civil as well as military science and technology, must notably be recognized as this type of priority. The fact that we are linked to other countries by certain commitments as regards carrying out joint projects for the use of space for civilian purposes must also be borne in mind. The entire complex of advanced science, which ensured Russia's leading position in the military space sphere for a number of decades, also demands appropriate concern....

"In connection with the negative processes in the Russian Army, the time has come to answer the main question: Will drastic measures to reduce budget funding of the Armed Forces not lead to the irreversible degradation of their combat and moral-political potential?

"Evidently, every Russian citizen understands that for Russia, the Army is not just a 'state institution' carrying out certain functions, but an organic part of society, and is involved in extremely important and responsible matters of safeguarding the country's security against any external threats. It is time to shed any illusions that establishing normal relations with countries of the world community will eliminate the necessity for a serious state approach toward ensuring its battleworthiness. In the shifting and changeable world in which we now live, the need for effective defense against any 'eventualities' is not only not diminishing, but is rather growing.

"The reality is such that the reduction of the Army, conducted in an extremely short time frame, has brought about an exclusively explosive situation. If we continue to ignore this fact, the whole of society will be threatened with serious consequences. I believe that unless we take extreme and effective measures to settle the 'Army problem' it will become the most important and self-contained [samodovleyushchiy] factor of public life. Before that time, we must find a compromise solution, reserving sufficient funds in the 1995 budget for maintaining the reliable combat readiness of the Armed Forces."

Information on the state of financial provision for the Russian Armed Forces is attached to the address.

Regional Affairs

Continuing Reportage on Unrest in the Chechen Republic

Chechen Minister Claims Russian Tank Columns Stopped

NC1212194794 Baku TURAN in English 1152 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, December 12 (TURAN)—Today by 2 o'clock in the morning move-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ment of Russian tank columns towards Chechnya was stopped from Ingushetiya and Dagestan, Chechen's Minister of Press and Information, Movladi Udugov, told TURAN. He says that "Russia's tank columns are blocked by local population, which opposes the introduction of Russian troops in Chechnya".

At present Russian tank columns are located 70 kilometres to the west of Groznyy in Ingushetiya and 70 kilometres to the east of Groznyy in Dagestan. Movladi Udugov says that tank column could enter Chechen Republic only from the north "from Nadterechny region controlled by the opposition". "Today Russian tank column is located in Nadterechny region, 40 kilometres to the north of Groznyy".

The same source reports that "Russian troops several times opened the fire trying to deblock the roads and killed peaceful citizens in Ingushetiya". According to different sources, the number of citizens killed in Ingushetiya is from 4 to 10 people, there are lots of wounded. "Russian servicemen beat the Minister of Medicare of Health Service [title as received], Tamerlan Garchkhanov, who had died in the hospital. The Minister was at the head of local citizens, who tried to prevent entry of Russian tanks". Movladi Udugov also mentioned that Dagestani citizens imprisoned more than 40 Russian soldiers and took away 6 armoured personnel carriers.

The same source reports that Chechen's leadership has the plan of Russian Government signed December 1 by Prime-Minister Chernomyrdin. Under this plan, Chechens must be expatriated from Chechen Republic to other Russian regions.

Yesterday Chechen's President, Jokhar Dudayev, said that it is impossible today to conduct negotiations with Russian representatives in Vladikavkaz.

Official Reaffirms Readiness for Peace

LD1212132494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1216 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 12 Dec—Before the start of the talks in Vladikavkaz, official Groznyy reaffirmed its readiness for a peaceful settlement in Chechnya. "We have always advocated—and despite all provocations will continue to advocate—a search for a peaceful settlement to the conflict," a high-ranking member of Dzhokhar Dudayev's staff, who preferred to remain anonymous, said in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

He also went on to say that the principles of Chechnya's actions in the current situation were discussed in Groznyy at a closed session of the republic's people's congress. The decisions of this body form the basis of Dzhokhar Dudayev's future actions and those of the other Chechen leaders, he stressed.

This permanent body, which was set up by Dudayev, includes representatives of state and executive power, the council of elders, the Muslim clergy, and the scientific and creative intelligentsia.

Information Center Says War Not Declared by Chechnya

LD1212130594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1242 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The temporary information centre reports that the information circulated about the decision by the Security Council of the Chechen Republic "to declare war on Russia" does not correspond to reality.

Russian Units Occupy 2 Chechen Rayons

LD1212140694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1314 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Report by correspondent Guskov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chechen Vice President Zeimkhan Yandarbiyev has told me that military subunits of Russia's Interior and Defense Ministries have occupied the entire territory of Nadterechnyy rayon, and that the armored equipment of the Russian Federation has also moved into Shelkovskoy rayon on the left bank of the river Terek. [Passage omitted]

Russian Troops Ordered To Fire Back on Attackers

LD1212142394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok December 12 TASS—Russian troops advancing on Groznyy were ordered to open fire in case attempts are staged to block their movement, according to the press centre of the Russian interior troops in the northern Caucasus.

The press centre told TASS on Monday that attempts were staged in Dagestan, neighbouring on Chechnya, to block the troops. Fire was opened at them and the attackers tried to seize weapons, combat hardware and take soldiers hostage.

The press service warned that "in case weapons are used against the troops the servicemen were instructed to repel the attacks by all available means".

The press service confirmed to TASS that Russian troops continued advancing on the Chechen capital of Groznyy on Monday.

One of the three armoured convoys advanced from the settlement of Znamenskoye via the village of Gora-Gorsk. TASS correspondent in the Chechen capital reported that dozens of armoured vehicles supported by

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

combat aircraft and helicopters approached the village of Dolinskiy, 20 kilometres away from Groznyy.

Another Russian armoured convoy moving to Chechnya from Ingushetia has crossed the Chechen border near the settlement of Assinovskaya.

In the meantime, talks between a delegation of the official Groznyy and Russia began in the North Ossetian capital of Vladikavkaz, TASS was told by telephone from the administration of North Ossetian leader Akhsarbek Galazov.

Chechen Opposition Creates No Problems for Russian Troops

LD1212145994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Znamenskoye December 12 TASS—Only one armoured convoy of Russian troops faced no problems in advancing on the Chechen territory. These were the troops going on through the Nadterechnyy region controlled by the opposition Provisional Council, TASS learned on Monday from a spokesman of the Krasnodar Division of interior troops who said that the units were "met with understanding" by local residents.

Other two armoured convoys, moving from Ingushetia and Dagestan, were blocked by local residents.

The spokesman said that the troops had not yet begun disarming the units of the opposition Provisional Council as it is envisaged by a presidential decree. The Council, according to him, helps the troops to fulfil their tasks.

Seven strongholds were established on the road leading from Mozdok in North Ossetia to Znamenskoye and Tolstoy-Yurt settlement.

Casualties Reported in First Clashes in Chechnya

LD1212150794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 12 TASS—The first clashes between the advancing Russian troops and the Chechen government forces took place near the settlement of Dolinskiy, 20 kilometres away from Chechnya, on Monday [12 December] and an unspecified number of casualties was reported.

The headquarters of the Chechen government forces said the Russian troops tried to break through to Groznyy and the Chechen forces render "fierce resistance" to them.

It added that casualties were reported in Dolinskiy and the nearby settlement of Pervomaysk. Russian soldiers dispersed around the settlements are are firing at Chechen units.

According to the headquarters, the armoured convoy of Russian troops which entered Chechnya from Ingushetia began digging trenches near the settlement of Assinovskaya.

Another convoy moving from Dagestan was blocked by residents on the Chechen border, it stressed.

Komi Officials Send Away UN Inspectors

LD1212181294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Summary] A group of UN experts who arrived yesterday at the place of the Komi Republic oil pipeline accident today left the territory on the instructions of the local administration. Our radio was told this by ecological activists.

Correspondent Kseniya Novikova of Moscow Echo reports that the UN inspectors, who were accompanied by representatives of a number of Russian ministries, gathered on the spot to find out the scale of the accident. Komi Republic insists minimum damage has been done. Tomorrow in Usinsk a conference opens on development of the Timan- Pechora oil deposit.

Troops' Purpose is To Disarm Combatants

LD1212163794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1613 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—The Russian troops have been sent to the break-away Republic of Chechnya to "disarm bands and seal off pockets of armed resistance, not to seize Groznyy," a senior Russian presidential aide said.

Leonid Smirnyagin, a member of the Presidential Council, told journalists on Monday that no task to take over Groznyy has been set. "We are speaking about a passive role of the military who should destroy heavy weapons held by the Dudayev regime," he said.

Smirnyagin believes that talks alone will not produce the desired results. Moscow has done a lot of talking over the three years, he added. In addition, the Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime is "absolutely illegitimate and there are no grounds to consider him as a representative of the Chechen people."

Those who support the "freedom to Chechnya" calls basically support its secession from Russia, the presidential adviser said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Speaking about the public reaction to the events in Chechnya, Smirnyagin said that "we cannot say that absolutely everyone is against. There is a whole spectrum of political opinions."

Chechens Say Russian Planes Fire Rockets, Drop Bombs

LD1212194194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1810 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Officers in the Chechen armed force headquarters told Interfax that Russian attack planes had fired rockets at and dropped bombs on the settlements of Pervomaiskiy, northern suburb of Groznyy, and Michurin, eastern suburb of Groznyy, Monday. There were extensive damage and numerous casualties.

In the town of Dolinskiy, 25 kilometers northeast of Groznyy, a battle between a Russian armor column and Chechen troops is underway, the officer of the day said. At least seven civilians are reported killed.

There was no confirmation of this report from other sources.

Russian troops reached the vicinity of Dolinskiy from the Nadterechnyy District which they had entered from Mozdok in northern Ossetia.

An Interfax correspondent reports that special troops of the Russian Interior Ministry have been deployed inside Dagestan several kilometers from the Dagestani-Chechen border.

The Russian troops that entered Chechnya from Nazran have advanced seven kilometers and approached the village of Assinovskaya, 64 kilometers from Groznyy.

An Interfax correspondent who has returned from the Chechen-Ingush border says that armed local men concentrate at the Groznyy highway in nearly all villages. The highway is blocked by concrete plates.

Aslan Maskhadov, Chechen armed force chief of staff, told Interfax that the Chechen events had a resonance throughout the northern Caucasus. He said that the Dagestani population was continuing disarming the servicemen of Interior Ministry's special units and that 11 more Russian troops had been taken prisoner in addition to the 46 captured in Monday morning.

Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef told Interfax that the Russian- Chechen talks held in Vladikavkaz "under Moscow's pressure" were made pointless the Russian invasion of Chechnya and by the violation of the agreement reached by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Russian Advance Guard 25-30 Km From Groznyy

LD1212194494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1810 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian Government's information center reports that the column of Russian troops advancing from Mozdok on Groznyy lost none of its men killed. By the latest accounts, eight wounded servicemen were rushed to hospital in Mozdok.

It was reported earlier that two Russian servicemen were killed when the column was shelled at about 14:30.

According to the center, the Russian troops stopped their movement on Groznyy as darkness set in. The advance guard of the Russian troops is 25 to 30 kilometers from Groznyy.

Russian Column Crosses Chechen Border Near Assinskaya

LD1212192894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A spokesman for the Ingushi Interior Group for Urgent Matters has told Interfax that a column of Russian troops which moved along the Rostov-Baku highway, has crossed the administrative border of Chechnya in the area of the Assinskaya village.

A spokesman for local human rights organization quoted servicemen as saying that they have order to open fire to kill if the case of resistance to the Russian troops.

Chechen People's Congress May Extend Dudayev's Mandate

LD1212200694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1945 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 12 TASS—The Chechen People's Congress said on Monday [12 December] it may extend Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev's mandate for another term.

The participants in the congress who held a closed-door meeting today said such a move is necessary in order to strengthen the republic's defence capability.

They also intend to demand that the Russian Government pay compensation for the damage incurred by the war, which they described as a "new imperial war against the Chechen people." They suggested that Dudayev refrain from talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Chechnya's political status cannot be a subject of the talks with Russia. The talks can deal only with prospects for establishing inter-state relations, the congress said.

The members of the congress decided to dispatch a delegation to Moscow for talks with deputies of the Federal Assembly. The delegation will include Chechen elders and Moslem leaders.

Officials Discuss Chechen Situation

MS1312102994 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Interview with Galina Starovoitova, leader of Democratic Russia party, and Sergey Stankevich, member of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Foreign Affairs committee of the Russian Parliament by presenter Peter Snow; Starovoitova in the U.S., Stankevich in Moscow, and Snow in the London studio; from the "Newsnight" program—live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Snow] Miss Starovoitova do you think this was wise of President Yeltsin to put the tanks in?

[Starovoitova] No I don't think so. I agree that it's some sort of repetition of Afghanistan war. Chechen's are very proud people, they were punished in Stalin's time, they were deported from their lands, they are indigenous population, they have a very high spirit of solidarity, and we have already a lot of casualties there and we shall have more from both sides. I think the negotiations is a better way but unfortunately it's lost and that's the real threat to democracy in Russia and to the continuation of the whole course of the reforms, it is not a local conflict, I think the west should have some legal concern about this issue. It's a time to speak about human rights and its violations.

[Snow] Weren't we led to believe as Miss Starovoitova says Sergey Stankevich—weren't we led to believe Boris Yeltsin's Russia would not suppress democratic feelings on the part of local populations like this?

[Stankevich] I think that its not the question about democracy at all its law and order issue. Unfortunately this move which is absolutely right on behalf of Boris Yeltsin came too late. It was necessary to do such thing even earlier—maybe a year or a couple of years before. Let us imagine real situation—this person, I mean General Dudayev and his gang of bandits created real criminal state unfortunately, which is permanent source of criminal destabilization for the whole Russia. They organized huge smuggling, they rob almost all trains which come across their republic their territory, they organized drug traffic and arms—illegal arms deals, they provided escape for many Chechen gangsters throughout the country which can find safe place in Chechen republic. Any country in the world cannot permit such things on its territory so Yeltsin is absolutely right.

[Snow] Miss Starovoitova a gang of bandits with the negotiations effectively impossible and you have to exert control?

[Starovoitova] I cannot quite agree with my old friend Sergey Stankevich. I think Dudayev is popularly elected President, his power is legal power, he was elected the same year when President Yeltsin was elected. He has the position within his republic as well as President Yeltsin, as well as President Bush, President Clinton and everybody has a position, but time for the negotiations was lost—dramatically lost and I think now we shall witness the secessionistic tendencies among other Moslem republics within the former Soviet Union.

[Snow, interrupting] Miss Starovoitova what about the effect of all this on Moscow, on the rest of the Russian federation, I mean is it going to be popular, are people going to want to be involved in a sort of Afghanistan as you yourself mentioned?

[Starovoitova] No of course it is not popular and we had today two different demonstrations, one from right-wing of opposition, another one from left-wing of opposition. There were also communists and liberals like Yegor Gaydar and his supporters.

[Snow] What about that Mr. Stankevich? What about this expression of opinion in the streets of Moscow?

[Stankevich] Even radical liberals represented by Mr Gaydar's movement split about this Chechen issue. Well-known person Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev quitted from Gaydar's party because of their opposition to President's move. I think of course we should raise certain questions and it is very great risk to start this real military operation on Chechen territory, but it's necessary to support President of our own country in time of such serious crisis, and I think that it's mistake made by Mr. Gaydar and some other prominent liberals in our country. It's not necessary to be in so serious opposition in so serious time, it's necessary to support President I am sure.

[Snow] Miss Starovoitova do you think President Yeltsin has an eye on the elections coming up?

[Starovoitova] I don't think he has a good chances to be re- elected after this—our national disgrace connected with this Chechen case.

[Snow] Could it not be that it's a success this operation, could it not be that it does lead to the successful incorporation of Chechenya in the Russian Federation?

[Starovoitova] To be successful, to defeat Chechen republic is only one way to destroy totally, to kill hundreds of thousands of people, and its a real serious bloodshed and of course Russian minority more than 100,000 of them is in a position of hostage.

[Snow] Mr. Stankevich can this be achieved without bloodshed, is it possible?

[Stankevich] I think it's possible. I think it's a real test for Boris Yeltsin, he should combine both military pressure and at the same time negotiations. It's necessary to isolate Dudayev himself and his group like it was in Panama when the United States isolated Noriega the dictator of Panama, so it's necessary to isolate Dudayev and at the same time to avoid casualties and avoid involvement in long-term conflict. After Dudayev is isolated it's necessary to withdraw major forces to call for Chechen people to create a kind of congress, and to organize elections under the supervision of their ethnic [word indistinct] from neighboring republics and maybe with presence of international organizations.

Groznyy Talks: Disarmament Conditioned to Russian Pullout

LD1212235294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2316 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladikavkaz, 13 Dec—The sides' striving to solve the problem of disarmament and stop the bloodshed was confirmed on the first day of the talks held here on Monday between members of the Russian Government's working commission and Groznyy's official delegation.

According to Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, head of the Russian delegation, "the fact itself that the Russian and the Chechen sides came to the negotiating table is a positive one." "There is no common approach to a number of issues. But there is a striving to solve the extremely complex problem of disarmament and put an end to the bloodshed in Chechnya," he noted. "This is the main issue for the sake of which we have all come here."

Voicing the Chechen Republic's position, Tamaz Abubakarov, head of the delegation, republican economics and finance minister, remarked in the course of discussion that "there are common meeting-grounds," but the sides differ, however, "on the ways and methods to achieve their goals." The Russian president's decree, he believes, "failed to indicate a mechanism for confiscating weapons," which needs developing. "We agree to disarm on the condition that Russia should immediately start pulling out its troops from Chechen territory," Tamaz Abubakarov stressed. "The language of ultimatums does not work with the Chechen people."

Meanwhile, an ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned that the first agreement has been attained at the talks between members of the government working commission and representatives of Chechnya's opposition Interim Council, which were held separately. The sides agreed that to prevent bloodshed in Chechnya the Interim Council pledges to stop hostilities and to carry out disarmament in an agreed manner. The Interim Council's delegation will submit to the working commission a list of individuals kept in detention in Chechnya in order to release them with the mediation of the Red Cross.

Russian Troops Ordered to Blockade Groznyy

LD1312121994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1202 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok (North Ossetia), 13 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—According to military sources in Mozdok, subunits of the Internal Ministry troops and of the Defence Ministry of Russia, which were brought into Chechnya to prevent activities of armed formations, have today been ordered to blockade Groznyy. Right now the subunits are moving toward Groznyy.

Advancing Columns Stopped by Dudayev Forces

LD1312121294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1158 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to military sources in Groznyy, clashes between Russian troops and Dudayev's forces have been ongoing in two directions since Tuesday [13 December] morning.

In the south-western Nazran direction (from Ingushetia), a Russian armored column passed the post near the Cossack village of Assinovskaya (64 kilometers from Grozny) advancing three kilometers into Chechen territory. It was then stopped by Chechen irregular units.

In the Tolstoy-Yurt northern direction, Russian troops attempted to climb to the Tersky Range. However, by 11:20 their advancement was checked by irregular units and the Dudayev troops.

According to Grozny, on Monday night, aviation launched a missile attack on positions of Dudayev supporters near the Chechen capital.

Meanwhile, a representative of one of Chechnya's largest populated areas—Stariye Atagi—proposed that ethnic Russians, who have no place to run to from Groznyy, come to his village. Speaking on national TV, he said that his village alone was ready to accommodate from 150 to 200 Russian families.

Many families have left Groznyy in fear of air strikes. No more than 10 families have remained in each of the many-storeyed apartment houses in the Chechen capital, our correspondent reports.

Dudayev's supporters continued to rally in Groznyy's central square on Tuesday. From the center of the city some irregulars head straight to reinforce defense positions along the three directions the Russian troops advance into Groznyy.

Chechen Defense Forces Fire on Russian Overflights

LD1312051994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0411 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—Last night did not bring any perceptible changes in the situation in the Chechen capital. According to a report from the ITAR-TASS correspondent in Groznyy, aviation made fly-overs of the town, starting at 0210 hours [2310 GMT] and lasted until almost 0400 hours in the morning. The sleeping districts were lit up with illumination flares released on parachutes.

In response, the Chechen defense forces periodically opened fire from anti-aircraft installations. Moreover, the systems providing the town with vital services were functioning according to their normal regime, and local television continued its broadcasts long after midnight.

Yesterday fierce clases between sub-units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Defense of Russia and the Chechen armed formations were taking place near the settlement of Dolinskiy outside Groznyy right up until nightfall. Not only armored equipment, but also heavy artillery, "Grad" volley fire systems, helicopter gunships, and aircraft were used in the clashes.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

According to preliminary figures there are casualties on both sides, the exact number of which is being established. Other sub-units of the Russian troops, which moved up to the borders of Chechnya earlier, are 25-30 km from Groznyy on individual stretches. It is expected that, after the completion of the operation of blockading the town, they will set about disarming the illegal formations.

Chechen Press Minister: 70 Russians Killed, 40 Wounded

LD1312071094 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0430 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On Monday [12 December] during the advance of Russian troops to the capital of Chechnya the column was fired on from a "Grad" installation belonging to the supporters of General Dzhokhar Dudayev. As a result, eight Russians were wounded. A firing point was destroyed by Russian aviation. That was reported by ITAR-TASS. Movladi Udugov, head of the press department of Chechnya, reported to the Ekho Moskvy radio station that during a four-hour-long battle approximately 70 Russians perished and more than 40 were wounded.

Dudayev Ready for Referendum, Elections if Troops Leave

LD1312103494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0500 GMT 13 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified correspondent] The information pouring out of Chechnya is still quite contradictory, just like the relations within the republic. At the same time, the positions of the supporters and opponents of the forced and quite extreme measures taken by the Russian side have long been clear, and the political leaders are now being asked not to express their personal view of what is happening but to propose concrete measures to put this growing military conflict on the path to peace, which is still possible. According to Sergey Yushenkov, a State Duma deputy and chairman of the Duma Defence Committee—who has made telephone contact several times with Dudayev's aide, Movlen Salamov over the past 24 hours—the Chechen side is ready for talks on the issue of the republic's status.

[Yushenkov] We are not just talking about a referendum, but about elections, too. They are ready to hold elections, even pre-term elections. Dudayev himself is ready for this. But there is the one condition—that troops be withdrawn.

[Correspondent] Sergey Yushenkov believes that talks on the existing problems can only be conducted with the president of Chechnya, since only Dzhokhar Dudayev can control, in one way or another, the situation in the republic.

[Yushenkov] The Duma should have adopted a resolution forcing the executive powers to hold talks with Dzhokhar Dudayev.

[Correspondent] Asked if the defense committee had any information about the number of Russian servicemen in Chechnya, Yushenkov could only give his own subjective estimate.

[Yushenkov] I have the impression that there are about two or three divisions there.

Russian, Chechen Delegation Leaders Comment on Talks

LD1312052794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0504 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz December 13 TASS—Talks on a settlement of the conflict in the Chechen Republic are to continue here on Tuesday with the participation of the Russian governmental working commission and Groznyy officials.

Summing up the results of the first day of the talks, which began here on Monday [12 December], Russian delegation leader Vyacheslav Mikhailov noted it as a positive aspect that "the Russian and Chechen sides did sit down at the negotiating table".

"There is no common approach to a number of points. But there is a desire to resolve the extremely complex problem of disarmament and cessation of bloodshed in Chechnya," Mikhailov pointed out.

According to Tamaz Abubakarov, leader of the Groznyy official delegation and Chechen minister of economics and finance, there are common point of contact at the talks, but the sides differ over how the goals should be attained. "We decided to postpone our dialogue until Tuesday, December 13," Abubakarov said.

70 Russian Soldiers Killed in Chechen Clashes

LD1312065494 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0530 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, it was reported to INTERFAX at the headquarters of the Chechen army that the Russian troops have suffered considerable losses in the fighting. According to the figures, which we have still not managed to confirm from independent sources, approximately 70 people have perished on the Russian side.

Russians Troops Begin Offensive on Groznyy From Ingushetia

LD1312074294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0700 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0800 [0500 GMT], a column of Russian troops [?of the Caucasus Forces began] an

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

offensive on Groznyy from the direction of Ingushetia. A spokesman for an international non-violence organization told our radio station that troops are moving along the Rostov-Baku road. He said that there are no less than 200 pieces of armored equipment in the column.

Talks Continue With Chechen Republic Delegation

LD1312100894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0931 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By Vadim Byrkin, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Dec—According to a spokesman for the provisional information center in Vladikavkaz, the talks between the Government's working commission in charge of settling the situation in the Chechen Republic and a delegation representing the authorities in Groznyy continued today at 1000.

The second day of the talks began with a new draft of a joint document having been handed over to the representatives of the Chechen Republic. After that, the head of the Chechen delegation took a half hour "time-out" to get through to the leadership in Groznyy. As for the talks with the representatives of the opposition, an accord to disarm was reached yesterday, 12 December, during talks with the delegation representing the provisional council of the Chechen Republic.

Six Russian Servicemen Killed in Chechen Missile Attack

LD1312101294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0948 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 13 TASS—Six Russian servicemen were killed and 12 were injured as a result of Monday's [12 December] missile attack in Chechnya, a source in the medical units of the Russian Army deployed in Mozdok on the Chechen border, told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday.

According to the press centre of the Russian Interior Troops in Mozdok, the missile attack was staged by President Dzhokar Dudayev's supporters at 12.20 (GMT) on Monday near the village of Dolinskiy, 15 kilometres (10 miles) shy of Groznyy.

All the injured received medical treatment in mozdok.

Russian Vice-Premier Nikolay Yegorov, in charge of the Chechen settlement, will supposedly visit today the village of Znamenskoye, Chechnya's opposition stronghold, to investigate into an incident of December 11, when two local residents were shot and killed by Russian troops pouring into the republic.

Interior, Defense Ministry Troops Repulse Dudayev Attacks

LD1312105394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1002 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Moscow, 13 December (ITAR-TASS)—In connection with reports by some news agencies alleging that Interior Ministry troops and subunits of the Russian Defense Ministry experienced large losses during fighting near the settlement of Dolinskiy on the night of 12-13 December, the following was reported from the region of fighting to Valentin Sergeyev, head of the Russian Government press service.

The reports on large losses do not correspondent to reality. [passage omitted]

On 13 December between 0100-0400, over 1,000 pro-Dudayev forces again attacked the Interior and Defense Ministry subunits near the settlement of Chervlenaya, 14-15 km from Groznyy. They used armored equipment, artillery, and Grad launchers in their attack. By 0400 the Interior Ministry units halted the attacks, and Dudayev's detachment dispersed and retreated toward Groznyy. The press service report from the scene of the fighting says there are no losses among the servicemen of the Interior Ministry troops and Defense Ministry subunits.

At dawn, fresh attacks by pro-Dudayev forces were successfully repulsed. The report says no armed formations of the Chechen opposition are taking part in the fighting. [passage omitted]

Clashes Continue North of Groznyy; 5,000 Troops Advance

LD1312112094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asutev]

Groznyy December 13 TASS—Russian Chechen-combat clashes continued on Tuesday morning to the north and east of the Chechen capityal of Groznyy. Russian troops supported by combat aircraft block the attempts of armed supporters of President Dzhokhar Dudayev to break through to Groznyy from the countryside, TASS learned from the headquarters of the Chechen government forces.

Fighting is currently going on at the Tersk mountain range near the settlement of Pervomaiskaya several kilometres away from the northern outskirts of Groznyy. The headquarters said up to 150 Russian armour and not less than five thousand soldiers are advancing there.

Another Russian armoured convoy is advancing on Groznyy from Nazran in Ingushetia. By 11.00 hours Moscow time [0800 GMT] it advanced three kilometres into the Chechen territory and stopped near the settlement of Novy Sharoi, according to the headquarters.

Disagreements Continue in Chechen Talks

LD1312121594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Meanwhile it is the second day of talks in Vladikavkaz between members of the Russian Federation commission and the delegation from

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dzhokhar Dudayev's government. Our special correspondent Marina Chernukha reports from Vladikavkaz:

[Chernukha] The talks began at 1000 this morning when Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, deputy minister for the affairs of nationalities and regional policy, and head of the Russian delegation, gave the official Groznyy delegation a draft final document. After this a break was announced. Two hours later the delegations again sat at the negotiating table and put to the vote clauses of this document. A point on which Moscow continues to insist, that the process of disarming illegal formations in Chechnya will take place on the basis of the Russian Federation Constitution, is causing the greatest disagreement. One of the representatives of the Chechen Republic delegation said in an interview with your correspondent that such a wording is unacceptable as it means actually recognizing Chechnya as a constituent part of the Russian Federation.

Besides, according to another member of the official Groznyy delegation, bombing of Chechnya's capital is continuing despite the fact that the mass media are saying the opposite. Last night and this morning, he asserted, Russian planes bombed Groznyy, while the Russian troops are moving from the north and from the south to the Chechen capital and are now 25 km from Groznyy. Talks cannot be conducted in such conditions, think the majority of the participants in the official Groznyy delegation.

According to information received by your correspondent from sources close to the leadership of the Russian Ministry of Defense, subunits and groups of the Internal Troops, armed forces and Federal Counterintelligence Service are 15 km from Groznyy.

Chernomyrdin on Chechnya Intervention

LD1312120894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Dec 94

[(From the "Vesti" newscast)]

[Announcer] Democracy is not synonymous with anarchy, or lack of order and discipline. Toothless authorities, led by passions and emotions generated by rallies are incapable of defending anyone, said Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow today, opening the national conference on the situation of women.

[Correspondent S. Milianchikov] In all, today's speech by the Russian prime minister was devoted to the situation in the Chechen republic.

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] Can one continue to reconcile oneself with a situation in which groups of armed persons from Pakistan, from Afghanistan, and from other territories nearby are active on the territory of Russia, in the region of Chechnya; in which it is precisely from the south of Russia that organized drug trafficking, arms and currency trading are spreading their tentacles all over Russia?

The legal chaos that now reigns supreme on the territory of Chechnya is being put to use, to good use indeed, by criminal structures which have now caused the Chechen people and other Caucasus peoples to bear the blame for their dirty business.

But it is not the proud and courageous Chechen people, nor other Caucasus peoples who have this century undergone more than a fair share of grief and humiliation, who are to be blamed for this rise in crime, nor should the well-known persons of Caucasian nationality be blamed, either, for such an attitude is thoroughly unacceptable. [end recording]

[Milianchikov] Viktor Chernomyrdin said that an unstable situation, in which the federal authorities were unable to do anything, was being artificially maintained in the Republic over the past few years.

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] The aim of the latest actions by the federal authorities is to normalize the situation, to put an end to the violations of the Russian Constitution, to restore law and order, and to facilitate economic and political stabilization in Chechnya. [end recording]

[Milianchikov] A financial reserve with clear targets has now been formed to give economic assistance to the republic and humanitarian freight has already begun to arrive in Chechnya. As for the introduction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs units and the army into the region:

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] it is the task of the troops to prevent the conflict from escalating. There are various means to accomplish that, and these will be put to use depending on how the situation develops, exclusively within the constitutional and legal framework. It is the constitutional task of the Russian armed forces to guarantee the fatherland's territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, peace, calm, and security for the citizens of Russia. This is precisely why the sub-units of the army and internal troops are now in the zone of the armed conflict. [end recording]

[Milianchikov] Viktor Chernomyrdin sees a way out of the crisis, through constructive talks. The executive authorities will not merely appeal for such talks—they will force the opposing sides to hold them. [video shows Chernomyrdin in conference hall)

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

International Affairs

Kiev: Chechen 'Russia's Internal Affair'

LD1212152094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1435 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 12 Dec—The Ukrainian Government has issued a statement on the latest developments in Chechnya. It says, in particular:

"The Government of Ukraine consistently upholds adherence to the principles of territorial integrity and exclusively peaceful solutions to any disputes. The settlement of the conflict in the Chechen Republic and the ensuring of strict compliance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation is Russia's internal affair. The Government of Ukraine is hopeful that the conflicting sides will make every possible effort to avert the uncontrolled escalation of the conflict and any threat to the peace and security of the people, and prevent casualties among the civilian population.

"The Government of Ukraine urges all interested parties to refrain from actions which could lead to a buildup of combat operations in Chechnya, exercise wisdom and consideration, and promote a political solution to the situation.

"The Government of Ukraine appeals for respect for the safety of Ukrainian citizens who have found themselves in the conflict zone and warns all of Ukraine's organizations and citizens against interfering in the internal affairs of the neighboring state."

Moroz on International Role

LD1212173094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Svitlana Dorosh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tirana [no dateline as received]—"I am deeply concerned that the situation in Chechnya is developing using methods of force. I think that everything will depend on how much either side endeavors to facilitate a resolution of the problem without force." Oleksandr Moroz, Ukraine's Supreme Council chairman, said this in an interview with UNIAN today. He believes that international organizations, particularly the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly, could play a considerable role in situations similar to the Chechen conflict. The head of Ukraine's parliament spoke for the necessity of sending a parliamentary delegation to Chechnya. He also reported that this issue was discussed with Valentin Kovalev, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation's State Duma. Only after such a visit can final conclusions be drawn, Oleksandr Moroz believes.

Rukh Condemns Russian Actions

LD1312105494 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 12 Dec—The People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh] expresses support for the freedom-loving Chechen people in their efforts for the right to determine their own fate. The People's Movement believes that aggression against the Chechen republic brings to nought the declarations by the higher Russian leadership on adhering to the principles of democracy and should be condemned by the world community. "We hope that Ukraine's Supreme Council and president will not be silent on bloody events not far from Ukraine's borders," Vyacheslav Chornovil, head of the People's Movement of Ukraine, notes in the statement on the latest events in the Chechen republic.

'Intervention' Protested

LD1312103794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 12 Dec—The leaders of the Ukrainian Republican Party have addressed a letter to Leonid Smolyakov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Ukraine. The letter expresses protest against Russia's use of armed force to resolve Chechnya's sociopolitical problems. The Ukrainian Republican Party assesses military intervention as a recurrence of the imperialist totalitarian approach to the resolution of national problems. The authors of the letter have called on the ambassador to do everything possible not to allow a bloody intervention into Chechnya's internal affairs and to let the Russian Federation's leadership know of the Ukrainian Republican Party's stance.

Protest Rally Held

LD1212202194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A rally took place in Simferopol today. It was held by the organization of the Crimean-Tatar National Movement, the Majles of the Crimean-Tatar People, the Simferopol organization of Rukh, the Crimean organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party, and the Crimean Union of Freelance Journalists. The rally approved a resolution of protest against the dispatching of military formations and units of Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs to the territory of the Chechen Republic.

We are demanding that President Boris Yeltsin and his entourage should immediately stop military actions against the Chechen people and withdraw Russia's Armed Forces from the territory of Chechnya, the resolution says, in particular. The rally appealed to the sides involved in the conflict to immediately sit at the negotiating table and find a political solution to the confrontation that has taken shape.

Turkmen Promise To Resume Gas Supplies

LD1212234894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1910 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondnt Volodymyr Ivakhnenko]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Saparmurad Niyazov, the president of Turkmenistan, promised to resume deliveries of gas to Ukraine. Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma said this at a meeting with the leaders of Nikolayev Oblast held at the president's office. As is known, the deliveries of the Turkmen-produced gas have been terminated since 11 November. According to Leonid Kuchma, this occurred because the money ($371 billion) [figure as received] allocated by the International Monetary Fund especially for such settlements, was not used. The president of Ukraine emphasized that about $40 million out of this sum had already been paid to Turkmenistan.

Kiev, Romanians Hold Military Discussions

LD1212204094 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An official military delegation from Romania's National Defense Ministry arrived in Kiev today. The delegation is led by Colonel General Dumitru Cioflina, chief of the general staff.

[Unidentified correspondent] At a meeting with Valeriy Shmarov, Ukraine's deputy premier and defense minister, the talk centered on implementing the resolutions of an agreement and future cooperation. Incidentally, as Valeriy Shmarov himself noted, with regard to relations with the Romanian Defense Ministry, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry even gives advance notice to Ukrainian diplomats. In general, during the discussions the program of cooperation for 1995 was again reconsidered and adopted, particularly the part which concerns security in the region.

Romanian Chief of Staff Col. Gen. Dumitru Cioflina was received today by Ukrainian people's deputies who work in the Supreme Council Commission for Issues of Defense and State Security. Commission Deputy Chairman Oleg Chornousenko and Defense Commission members Volodymyr Mulyava and Hryhoriy Sydorenko acquainted the Romanian guests with the activity of the Commission for Issues of Defense and Military Building. They discussed the problems and the future of mutual cooperation in the sphere of international security, in particular in the eastern European region. They exchanged views on building and reforming the Armed Forces, both in Ukraine and in Romania. The Partnership for Peace program was also discussed at the meeting, which touched upon the development of bilateral relations within the framework of this program.

Moroz, Albanian President Discuss Relations

LD1312133294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1045 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Svitlana Dorosh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tirana—At a meeting with President Sali Berisha of Albania on 12 December, the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Oleksandr Moroz stressed that Ukrainian- Albanian relations are insufficiently developed and noted that the Foreign Ministry of Albania has not reacted to a proposal from the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry to open diplomatic representations in both countries. The president of Albania promised to assist.

Having discussed the possibility of treating Ukrainian children in Albania, the president of Albania and the chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine failed to reach any agreement.

Outlining the future of bilateral foreign economic relations, Oleksandr Moroz said that Ukraine could offer Albania trucks, agricultural machinery, TV sets and ships.

On the same day, at a meeting with the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan Yashar Aliyev, a verbal agreement was reached that a delegation from the parliament of Azerbaijan will visit Ukraine in the second half of 1995.

Oleksandr Moroz also met with Mr. Verivakis, the chairman of a Greek parliamentary committee. Greece has an observer status at the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly since in the words of Mr. Verivakis, Greece failed to see that "this organization had a clear policy." During the meeting Oleksandr Moroz received an official invitation to visit Greece.

National Affairs

Kuchma Signs Monetary Reform Edict

LD1212215294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1910 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—An edict issued by the president of Ukraine "On a state commission for carrying out monetary reform in Ukraine" was promulgated on 12 December. In compliance with the edict, a relevant commission was set up with Viktor Pinzenyk, first deputy prime minister, at its head and with Viktor Yushchenko, chairman of the Board of the National Bank of Ukraine, as its deputy head. Anatoliy Halchynskyy, the president's macroeconomic adviser; Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk; Oleh Dyomin, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council; Deputy Prime Minister Igor Mityukov; Serhiy Osyka, minister of external economic relations; and Economics Minister Roman Shpek are members of the commission.

The edict says that the commission is instructed to find enforceable rules for carrying out monetary reform and to coordinate measures to be taken by the bodies of executive power and self- government and by banking establishments. A working group was also formed by the edict to draft the above enforceable rules.

The state commission for carrying out monetary reform in Ukraine is to submit draft edicts by the president of Ukraine and other enforceable rules by 30 December.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rallies Continue Against Price Liberation

AU1212134494 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Prices Led to Protest Actions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Actions of protest took place in many regions of Ukraine in connection with a deterioration of living conditions following the price-liberation shock.

A crowded rally and demonstrations by representatives of all of Dniepropetrovsk's branches of the national economy and trade unions proceeded under the following slogans: "Yes to Reforms, No to Price Anarchy!", "Decent Life to Working People!", "Give Us a Chance To Earn!", and so on. The participants in the rally demanded that a comprehensive approach be applied to resolving all problems proceeding from the principles of social partnership and that the burden of reforms not be shifted on the working people.

In Simferopol, the rally demanded that an end be put to the people's torment and that conditions be created to enable the people to implement their constitutional right to life, work, and proper remuneration for labor.

Demonstrations, rallies, and meetings with local administrations took place in Ternopil and in rayon centers of the oblast. Protest actions were also held in Odessa.

Kuchma Fires 2 Fuel Officials

LD1212132994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Mel[illegible]]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev December 12 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma sacked on Monday [12 December] two officials for failure to provide enough fuel to the national economy and the population.

Mikhail Kovalko was dismissed from the post of the chairman of the state committee for oil and gas, while Anatoliy Dronya was relieved of his duties of the chairman of the state communal and housing committee "for unsatisfactory work in providing fuel for the national economy and the population of Ukraine", Kuchma said in a decree.

Coal Reserves Seen as 'Catastrophic'

WS1312151994 Donetsk DONETSKIY KRYAZH in Russian 2-8 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Mykola Mokrishchev: "Coal Reserves Are Being Used Up"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation at thermoelectric stations in Donbass is catastrophic. With the real winter still to come, there is nothing left to burn in the boiler furnaces. The following are figures cited by Ivan Smirnov, chief engineer of the "Donbassenergo" production amalgamation, to describe the situation as of 30 November.

The Uglegorskaya State Regional Electric Station: Some 25,000 tonnes [of coal] are left in the deposits, only enough for five days. The station burns 4,600,000 tonnes of coal daily, while only 2,000,000 tonnes are supplied.

The Zuyevskaya State Regional Electric Station-2: Some 10,000 tonnes [of coal] remain—enough for less than two days. For now, the plant is operating on natural gas. Gas supplies are also about to be depleted; and when they are, all units will come to a halt.

The Starobeshevskaya State Regional Electric Station: Some 7,000 tonnes of coal are left—not enough even for two days.

None of the above stations has the so-called operational coal—all are burning coal taken from state reserves, well under the winter quotas. There is almost no black oil, too. It is very expensive, and there is no money to buy it—the debt for energy sources has already reached the level of 5.5 trillion karbovantsi [K]. The primary "Donbassenergo" debtors are coal producers.

This is why the outlet frequency fell to 49.2 Hertz. Should it decline an additional 0.2 Hertz, all atomic stations, which generate 40 percent of the electricity in Ukraine, will automatically be turned off. What will happen when the real cold weather settles in?

To save electricity, the system of fan-type disconnection of enterprises has been introduced. This happens both in daytime and at night. It cannot be ruled out that this type of disconnection will also affect residential districts.

Once mercury in thermometers fell below the mark [not further specified], the temperature in apartments in Zhuravlikha and Shakhtersk districts dropped to 12-15 degrees centigrade. The output temperature of several boiler-houses in Kramatorsk and Mariupol does not exceed 50 degrees centigrade. There is a risk of the heating systems freezing up.

This especially applies to institutions. The price demanded by the "Tochmash" production amalgamation for its heating services (K1.5 billion per month) made the "Donechchina" publishing house decide to go without heat. Due to exorbitant prices, warehouses of the "Vzuttya" shoe factory are not heated, either.

Residents of Selidov live in particularly extreme conditions, sitting without heat, gas, water, and often electricity. This town is largely populated by coal miners.

Kharkov Council on 'Harsh' Energy Conservation

WS1312115294 Kharkov VREMYA in Russian 3 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by A. Henkin: "Dire Straits"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Directors of large enterprises in Kharkov Oblast were advised at a meeting held at the oblast council yesterday about the emergency situation in which Ukrainian power engineering has found itself.

The current crisis is caused by a disruption of gas deliveries from Turkmenistan to begin on 6 December, as well as by gas supplies from Russia that were slashed by half as of 21 November. Negotiations held by politicians have so far brought no results. The conditions are very tough: repayment of debts by Ukraine and advanced payments.

Forecasts for today are very grim: if nothing changes soon, Ukraine will run out of gas in a week. Currently, pressure in the gas pipelines has fallen below the emergency level. This is why the oblast executive committee adopted a decision ensuring priority supplies to enterprises that are vital to the functioning of the population.

As for other enterprises, starting next week, they will operate two days a week according to a sliding schedule. Specific dates for every rayon have already been set.

According to available information, a different method was selected in Kiev. The Kiev City Council proposed that enterprises work 10 days a month, "resting" the other 20 days. It seems that our managers have made a more flexible decision.

On non-working days, electricity is supplied to enterprises in Kharkov and the oblast below the critical level to prevent the heating system from freezing, and to keep the alarm system operating.

Local television companies also transfer to a power emergency schedule. As for popular programs, they will be aired with interruptions from 0500 to 1000 and from 1800 to 2100.

As part of energy-saving measures, scientific and research institutes and other similar organizations will work only during daylight hours. The same regulations will apply to commercial kiosks, which will additionally be cut off from the heating system.

The oblast leaders appealed to all residents of Kharkov Oblast to apply caution when using gas, whose supplies can be disrupted at any moment.

Crimean Energy Situation Seen 'Critical'

AU1312122094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Dec 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The Crimea Has Its Own Debts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference by Arkadiy Demydenko, vice premier of the government of the Crimean Autonomous Republic, dealt with the situation in the peninsula's fuel and energy complex and measures that the government of the autonomy is going to take.

The situation is critical. Regular electricity outages have added up to constant interruptions in water and heat supplies. Even hospitals and schools are affected by them. Television and radio programs are also interrupted. The Crimean debt to Ukraine constitutes over one trillion karbovantsi [K].

In turn, consumers of electricity do not pay for it. In particular, the debt of the Black Sea Fleet is K20 billion. Nor do Russian military units deployed on the peninsula pay for the electricity. Forty percent of capacities in the Crimea are frozen, because Russia does not supply fuel for electric power plants.

Commission Looks at Miners' Grievances

AU1312091494 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 3 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Lyudmyla Blyshchyk: "The Voice of Miners, Holding a Hunger Strike, Has Been Heard"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Several weeks ago, DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA reported about the strike held by miners of several mines of the "Kryvbasruda" [Kryvyy Rih Ore] Association. The miners demanded that limitations be lifted from the wages fund and that activities of the leadership of the association and of the mines who, in the opinion of the initiators of the strike, have resorted to abuse, including financial, be investigated. We also wrote about the information blockade around these events. Here is the result: The strike has acquired extreme forms of protest. Fifty miners have not taken food for more than 10 days. Besides, as reported from the places of events, several persons are in a critical state.

Oleh Bondarchuk, chief consultant of the Ukrainian Presidential Administration Office for Issues of Internal Policy, compared the situation in the "Kryvbasruda" Association with a fire in a peatbog, when the danger is not immediately obvious—just a little smoke rises above ground—but, later, everything collapses into burnt- out hollows. Well, this is a good image. Let us hope, however, that it will become possible to avoid the worst. As stated by Mr. Bondarchuk, on 1 December, a meeting with striking miners took place at the Administration for Issues of Internal Policy. In order to check the facts, listed in the appeal, issued by workers of the Production Association "Kryvbasruda," the Ukrainian president ordered the creation of a commission, which includes, beside Oleh Bondarchuk, also representatives of Ukraine's Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Industry; Volodymyr Sosnovyy, chief of Ukraine's Security Service subdivision; Volodymyr Nikolayenko, procurator of the Department for General Supervision at the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Procurator's Office; Valentyn Shramko, first deputy procurator of Kryvyy Rih; and Olena Kushnirenko, deputy chief of the Kryvyy Rih administration. On Monday [5 Dec], the commission will get down to work directly in the production association.

Today, the commission is appealing to the hunger-strikers with a request to end the strike, because there is no need to continue risking human lives.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Strike Ends Due To Commission Set-Up

AU1212145794 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Kryvyy Rih Basin: The Strike and the Hunger Strike Have Been Temporarily Halted"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The mass strike involving about 3,000 workers of 15 Kryvyy Rih, Southern Mining Concentrating Combine, and the Mine Building Administration mines lasted 50 days. It was organized by local cells of the Independent Trade Union of Ukraine's Miners. The hunger strike by 50 workers lasted 24 days.

The strikers' demands mainly concerned providing reliable social protection during the period of reforms in the Ukrainian economy and signing the branch tariff agreement for 1995 between the Independent Trade Union of Ukraine's Miners and the Ministry of Industry. During the negotiations held with the leadership of the production association "Kryvbasruda" [Kryvyy Rih Basin Ore], the Southern Mining Concentrating Combine, and the Kirov Mine Administration an interim protocol was signed, in accordance with which regulations on the remuneration for the miners' labor, accords on canceling limitations to the consumer fund, and other documents are being prepared for signing.

On 5 December 1994, a commission, created by a Ukrainian presidential directive, started its work. It is headed by Oleh Bondarchuk, chief consultant for Issues of Internal Policy at the Presidential Administration. The commission, which includes representatives of the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Industry, Dnipropetrovsk Procurator's Office, and Ukraine's Security Service, will inspect the financial activity of the leadership of those mines, where the commission of the Independent Trade Union of Ukraine's Miners has revealed numerous violations of the current legislation.

In connection with the activity of the presidential commission, the strike and the hunger strike were halted starting from 5 December.

Moroz Proposes BSF 'Collective Security'

LD1212171494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1310 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Svitlana Dorosh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tirana—Oleksandr Moroz has made a speech at the General Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly, in which he proposed that a system of technologically based collective security be set up. He believes that the center of the system could be in Kiev.

According to Oleksandr Moroz, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly could facilitate the resolution of interregional conflicts and end bloodshed through the introduction of diplomatic talks into these conflicts.

In his speech the head of the Ukrainian parliament stressed that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly has not managed to sufficiently study the situation in this region or cooperate effectively with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization [Orhanizatsiya Chornomorskoho Ekonomichnoho Spivrobitnytstva]. He spoke in favor of effective cooperation between these two organizations via their secretariats, and also in favor of a thorough study of the legislative basis of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly countries, particularly on licensing and taxation, and their adaptation toward effective economic cooperation.

Oleksandr Moroz stressed the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly's considerable role in supporting high stability in a region where there is currently a small number of hotspots. He stressed that Ukraine is interested in establishing relations with these states—the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly members—on matters of constructing and modernizing roads, the rational use of natural resources, the scientific elaboration of environment protection, reconstruction, and the rational use of ports and communications, and also in processing agricultural produce and medicines. He believes that this will be useful for other countries, too.

The Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman also spoke in favor of simplifying visa regulations and a mandatory future Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly plan. This plan will probably be approved at the next session of the General Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Belarus

Popular Front Condemns Russia for 'Events in Chechnya'

WS1312085994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A session of the Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] Council has taken place in Minsk. Participants in the session discussed the political situation in the country. The BNF Council also adopted a statement condemning the Russian side in connection with the events in Chechnya.

Democratic Party Criticizes Electoral Law Amendments

WS1312091394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Executive Committee of the United Democratic Party of Belarus [ADPB] believes that the amendments to the electoral law, which were approved by the current Supreme Soviet deputies, are intended to disrupt the upcoming legislative elections and to maximally prolong the term of the current legislative body.

Thus, according to Article 57 in the new version of the electoral law, the elections in a constituency are declared valid if the turnout—both in the first and all subsequent rounds—is no less than 50 percent of all eligible voters in that constituency.

According to the ADPB, this norm contradicts not only civilized standards adopted by European countries, but also the experience of parliamentary elections in neighboring countries, where political activity of the populace is decreasing from year to year. In such a situation, it is hardly probable that a new parliament will be elected at all and will begin its work, since, according to the Constitution, this requires at least two-thirds of the total number of deputies.

Reasons for Establishing Customs Union With Russia Viewed

WS1212132694 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 9 Dec 94 p 1

[Interview with Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Syarhey Ivanavich Linh by Valyantsin Zhdanko; place and date not given: "Economic Performance Data Show That Customs Union With Russia Is Favorable for Belarus"—first paragraph is ZVYAZDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prospects for the socioeconomic development of Belarus and a draft budget for the coming year were discussed at a Cabinet of Ministers meeting on 7 December. Deputy Prime Minister Syarhey Linh delivered a primary report on the issue. A ZVYAZDA correspondent asked Syarhey Ivanavich to answer a few questions during a break in the session.

[Zhdanko] Syarhey Ivanavich, you are discussing a draft budget, according to which Belarus will secure Russian energy resources at comparatively low prices. I am referring to 10 billion tonnes of oil and 14 billion cubic meters of gas. Russia, however, has repeatedly warned that it intends to move to world prices for oil and gas. Therefore, there will be no cheap fuel for Belarus. What will happen to our economy and the draft budget?

[Linh] The point is that we are not purchasing oil and gas with money from our budget. It is Belarusian economic entities—power engineering complexes and enterprises—which are purchasing oil and gas, so these expenditures are included in their production costs. If, however, such a situation develops, the share of inflation—triggered by external factors—will increase. Even though our export opportunities will become aggravated—our goods will become more expensive, and, in addition, we will lose a few markets because our goods will be noncompetitive—our budget, however, will not be ruined. Therefore, we, if I can put it this way, are "fighting" for unified prices and are preparing to establish a common customs zone to promote free trade. We are, in fact, striving to introduce such prices in Belarus as Russia has. We are not paying customs duties so far. According to international prices, customs duties per one unit of goods amount to 30 ECU, or $35-37. Given the volume of our foreign trade, this is an enormous sum, standing at between $700 and $800 million. If prices are increased and customs duties are decreased, we will draw corresponding conclusions. We have not imposed a transit tax on Russia. Well, if we do not pay customs duties, we can save some $700 million, while our losses from an untaxed transit are amounting to some $300 million. You can see that this is a profitable deal. If our relations undergo changes, and if we realize that these changes are not beneficial for us, we will have to introduce a transit tax. This move, however, could spoil our relations and lead to many other unfavorable things. We are still expecting that we will manage to resolve the issue of a common customs zone.

It is very important for us to have similar—with Russia—prices for energy resources, not only from the viewpoint of their cheapness or expensiveness, but from the viewpoint of preserving our traditional market. Some 78 percent of our goods are sold on the Russian market. It is in our vital interest to not lose this market.

[Zhdanko] How are you responding to the sharp criticism of a common customs union with Russia being expressed by the forces of the "right?" What are the reasons for this criticism and to what extent is it grounded?

[Linh] To objectively assess a situation, it is necessary to study all the aspects of a problem. We have discussed all the available statistic data. Do you believe that we—the people who live in Belarus and who care for their families and their children—will do anything to harm our state? Those politicians, who are trying to gain the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

political capital on this situation and who are not bearing any responsibility for adopting decisions, find it easy to manipulate facts. As for us, we are standing on objective positions. I am not in a mood to discuss political issues, because I am swamped with current issues. In my opinion, we are pursuing the policy in the interests of our state.

Moldova

Dniester Status Negotiating Parties 'Satisfied' Over Talks

AU1212134594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2100 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 9/12/1994—Yesterday in Chisinau a new round of negotiations on elaborating a special juridical status for the eastern Moldovan districts was held. The negotiations were attended by Russian representative Vladlen Vasev and the head of the CSCE mission to Moldova, Philipp Hahn. The Moldovan delegation was led by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Nicolae Osmochescu, while the Tiraspol delegation by Valeriy Litskay, a Dniester state secretary. BASA learned from the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the current round continues to refine the draft on special juridical status for the eastern Moldovan districts taking into account the modifications proposed previously by both parties. The changed document was submitted to the intermediaries for analysis. At the round a common point of view on the preamble was reached, as well as on the other general points. Chisinau and Tiraspol representatives expressed their satisfaction with regard to the negotiations' outcome stressing that there are new opportunities to accelerate the elaboration of the Dniester special juridical status. The next round of negotiations will take place by late December 1994.

CSCE Minority Commissioner Opposes Gagauz Autonomy

AU1212163094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 9/12/1994—The CSCE high commissioner on national minorities, Max van der Stoel, has spoken against granting autonomy to Gagauz-dominant areas. He stated Thursday [8 December] evening here that "by adopting the Gagauz status law, the Moldovan Parliament will create a precedent for Europe."

He said he was against such precedents. However, he pointed out that the CSCE cannot force its opinion upon Moldova, and will render assistance in solving available problems, being sure the republic has good prospects.

During his meetings with leaders of the self-styled republic, local opposition, local self-government officials and the media, the high commissioner asked what their reaction would be if the Gagauz problem was solved in the framework of the national minorities law, or by substantially amending the Gagauz status law already passed at the first reading.

The press secretary of the unrecognized republic, Vasiliy Neikovchen, told INFOTAG that the Gagauz leaders and heads of local self-government bodies had voiced their categoric "no" to that. They stressed Gagauzes considered themselves to be "a people," and therefore the problem could not be solved in the framework of the law on national minorities.

As for substantially amending the status law, the Gagauz leaders said in that case the law would not work at all.

The chairman of the Gagauz Parliament, Mikhail Kendigelean, stated that "in case the law is amended, Gagauzes will have to put it for a national referendum, so that to learn people's opinion."

"Gagauzes will not agree for the amendments, because drafting the law was a 3 year long team work, and each word in the document was thoroughly balanced and agreed upon."

Socialists Criticize Law on Local Self-Administration

AU1312103594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 9/12/1994—Twelve deputies of the parliamentary Socialist Unity Faction have stated that some provisions in the law on local self-government, passed by Parliament yesterday, contradict to the national constitution.

In their official statement, delivered to INFOTAG, they claim that the new law envisages an anti-democratic mechanism of appointing leaders of local power bodies, and stipulates no status of local referendum as the supreme juridical force for a territory in question. The authors of the document also point out that the towns of Soroca, Orhei, Ungeni, Cahul, Rabnita, Dubasari were denied a municipality status.

"The adopted version of the law actually deprives Moldovan citizens of one of democratic freedoms—the freedom to choose local power leaders—and, hence, of constitution-envisaged instruments of control over local administrations. The transfer of several towns down to the area-subordination status shall cause their economic and social degradation."

Having stated their deep concern about political consequences of adopting such a law, the deputies informed on their intention to apply to the Supreme Court with a demand to investigate into the constitutional purity of the Parliament's decision.

Also, the deputies seek to attract President's attention on "the inadmissibility of promulgating laws that violate the national Constitution."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia To Reduce Natural Gas Prices for Chisinau

AU1312114594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1710 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 10/12/1994—In 1995, Russia will reduce natural gas prices for Moldova from $80 per 1,000 cubic meters, in 1994, to $58, BASAPRESS learned from Mihai Lesnic, "MoldovaGaz" company interim director general. This price is stipulated in the agreement signed this week by "MoldovaGaz" and "Gazprom" Russian gas company. Earlier, Vice Premier Valentin Kunev stated that this price cut was due to the creation of the Russian-Moldovan company "Gazsnabtranzit" whose foundation was approved by the Parliament on December 6. Moldova owes $250 M to "Gazprom". Lesnic said that a program on paying off the debts for 1995-1996 was worked out. The debts will be repaid with products and by creating joint ventures. Part of the gas pipelines crossing Moldova evaluated at $40 M will be transferred into Russia's property as repayment of the debts. Moldova committed to participate in the building of the Yamal-Europe gas pipeline. [sentence indistinct] Gas price in Moldova will decrease by about 20 percent. According to the Agreement, in 1995 Moldova will import 2.8 bn cubic meters of gas. Experts from the Economics Ministry gauge that in 1995 Moldova will need 3.5 bn cubic metres.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kazakhstan

Almaty Fears Chechen Conflict May Spread

LD1212133694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1245 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty December 12 TASS—Kazakhstan views Chechnya as a part of the Russian Federation, but fears that the conflict in the breakaway republic may spread to the territory of the ex-USSR.

"The actions of the Russian leadership are viewed in Kazakhstan in the context of the existence of a single Russian state of which the Chechen republic is a part" the Kazakh Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Monday [12 December].

It added, however, that "a further escalation of the confrontation resulting in new casualties among the civilian population can have extremely negative consequences not only for the Caucasian region. New military conflicts are fraught with undermining stability on the whole post-Soviet space", the ministry warned.

"Kazakhstan stands for an early settlement of the crisis, calls on the parties to search for peaceful ways of settling the conflict, show restraint, avoid bloodshed, restore peace and calm in Chechnya", the ministry said.

Sobolev on Economic Trends, Prospects

LD1312102094 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The trends hold out hope—that is what KAZTAG correspondent Yelena Miroglova entitled her report. Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Sobolev has held a news conference on the results of socioeconomic development in the republic for November and for the 11 months of this year.

Judging by the statistics data which were cited, our lives have not become any worse—of course, according to the average figures. Wages rose by 26.1 percent in November alone. The rate of wage increases is the highest in the CIS.

Such trends may, of course, allow us to be optimistic about the future, but we can judge the present not by the encouraging growth rate but by prices and the contents of our own pockets. Unfortunately, pensions, grants and wages at budget-funded establishments have not risen very much, unlike the swiftly growing prices. It is hard for us to live, but as Sobolev noted, if we look at our neighbors we can see that in terms of living standards and average wages expressed in dollars, people in Kazakhstan are in second or third place in the CIS, after Turkmenistan and Russia. The cost of the minimum consumer basket of 18 product types is now 1,083 tenge. The average size of pension, however, was 984 tenge in October.

At present there is a big problem. We have not only to increase pensions but also settle our debts and not let them reappear in future. This is one of the central tasks, Sobolev said. He noted that arrears of wages to workers at budget-funded establishments workers have been considerably reduced. The government hopes to make them up completely in the near future.

Kyrgyzstan

Prime Minister Attends Islamic Conference Forum

LD1212180294 Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The heads of government, foreign ministers, and leading experts on market economics of member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization have gathered in the capital of the African state of Casablanca [as heard]. The agenda for the meeting being held here on 12 to 15 December includes issues of integration and economic cooperation.

A delegation from the Kyrgyz Republic led by Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov is taking an active part in the December summit. The delegation went there immediately after the conference ended [as heard].

Akayev Signs Range of Accords With Pakistan

LD1212175894 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio first program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Kyrgyz delegation led by president Askar Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 10 to 12 December. During the visit, Askar Akayev held meetings and talks with President Farooq Leghari of Pakistan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and other officials. A joint declaration was signed on principles and areas for cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as well as a number of intergovernmental agreements on trade and economic contacts, on international road traffic, and on cooperation in tourism, as well as a protocol of cooperation between the foreign ministries of the two states.

Foreign Minister Signs Accords in London

LD1212174994 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Rosa Otunbayeva has been on an official visit to London at the invitation of the British Foreign Office. During the visit Otunbayeva held talks with Foreign Office officials, at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, at the British Council, at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, at the headquarters of the Commonwealth, and at a London university.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

A number of important documents were signed, including an investment protection agreement, agreements on cooperation in culture, science, education, and air traffic, as well as a declaration on bilateral cooperation between the ministries of foreign affairs.

Akayev Decrees Local Elections for 5 Feb

LD1212175194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Decree by President Askar Akayev; place and date not given—read by announcer]

In the light of numerous proposals from local communities on speeding up the second phase of the reform of local self-government in the Kyrgyz Republic, I decree:

1. Elections to the district and regional councils of the Kyrgyz Republic are to be scheduled for Sunday 5 February 1995.

2. The regulations for the elections to district and regional councils of the Kyrgyz Republic are to be approved.

3. The Central Election Commission for conducting referendums and elections is to ensure that the elections are conducted in line with the regulations on elections to district and regional councils of the Kyrgyz Republic.

4. The government of the Kyrgyz Republic and heads of the local state administrations are to solve matters of financial and material back-up for the elections to district and regional councils, on the basis of requests from the Central Electoral Commission and the election commissions.

5. The Commission for Local Government Reform and the Central Electoral Commission are to organize measures to explain to the Republic's population the aims and objectives of the second phase of local government, as well as the procedure for holding elections to district and regional councils.

6. Paragraph 2, Point 5 of Presidential Decree No. 188 of the Kyrgyz Republic of 18 August 1994 on local government reform in the Kyrgyz Republic and Paragraph 4, Point 4.3 of the regulations on the foundations for organizing local government in the Kyrgyz Republic, which was confirmed by Presidential Decree No. 246 of the Kyrgyz Republic of 22 September 1994 on adopting the regulations on foundations for organizing local government in the Kyrgyz Republic, are to be considered null and void.

7. This decree is to enter into force on the day of its publication.

[signed] Askar Akayev, president of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Akayev Criticizes 1995 Budget

LD1112113194 Almaty SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA (DELOVOY CHETVERG supplement) in Russian 8 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] There are versions. But has everything been added up? As has already been reported, an extended meeting of the Republic's government took place in Bishkek. Two questions were discussed: "The elaborated forecast for economic and social development in 1995" and "The draft 1995 state budget."

The chairman of the State Committee for Economics, T.Koychumanov, gave a report on the first question. He noted that the forecast points out possible reference points and directions for the functioning of the economy on the basis of the positive advances achieved in the second half of this year in the development of certain sectors and industry taking into account the actual existing market conditions and factors of macroeconomic stabilization and the consistent continuation of the course of radical reforms.

Preparation of the forecast was done in two versions. The first was based on the production plans of enterprises taking into account the current situation both in the Republic and outside it. The second came out of the more active influence of the government on the progress of the economic processes.

The speaker noted that the fall in production is continuing, though at the end of this year some positive tendencies toward stabilization have been noticeable. Evidently this was the basis of the second version, proposed as an alternative, which looks quite cheerful. If in the first version the figures in comparison to 1994 as a whole either correspond with this year's levels, or are somewhat less, then the optimistic version proposes a growth in industry, 110.6 percent, and in agriculture, 102.1 percent.

Of course, we may fight for "our colossal plans," but it is necessary to proceed from the current situation, not build castles in the air. And though during the discussions there were supporters of the second version, to all appearances specific work will be based on the more realistic figures. We should learn our lessons from the past when we wanted somewhat to pass our dreams off as reality. How well President Akayev put it: Every woman wants to be more beautiful than she is. But we are speaking about the state of affairs in the state.

Moreover it is necessary to bear in mind, that we are not alone in this world. The second phase of liberalization of prices in Russia begins on 1 January 1995, and more plainly this means that prices will raised for timber, metal, and for energy, all of which we have to import to the Republic.

The Republic will continue a strict finance and monetary policy to beat inflation. At the same time it is necessary to envisage necessary measures of social security for the population as well. That's why extraordinary efforts will be required to support the economy. It's still a little early to speak about any growth. It will be good if we manage to slow down the collapse in production and stabilize the situation. If we achieve this, then we can speak about positive advances seriously. I do not want to use the words "turning point" which was heard at the meeting,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

but maintaining the positions achieved (if this can be said during such a crisis in the economy) will be a major achievement.

The finance minister, K.Nanayev, gave a report on the draft budget. The main priorities, he said, lie in the field of social policy. Pensions will be increased 1.6 times from January 1 and the minimum pension will be 128 soms. By the middle of the year they will be doubled. In the meantime particular attention is paid to targeted support for poor people. A growth in average earnings of 20 percent is envisaged. Expenditure on health and education is being increased.

The minister spoke about changes in tax policy which will serve as not a bad stimulus for developing the activities of entrepreneurs and foreign investors.

We will not give specific figures for expenditure. Particularly as they will probably undergo serious changes. During the discussion the leaders of different ministries and departments accused the Finance Ministry of not paying attention to their needs. No one has enough money, but the budget is not made of rubber. But it is necessary to find new sources of revenue and no one spoke about this apart from the president of the Republic. And it is not by accident that he stated sharply and with pain in his heart that nobody was working on real forecasts, the leaders were not giving real information, and they knew little of the possibilities of their spheres and regions.

Many ministers and leaders of state administrations spoke at the meeting. But unfortunately, not all of them expressed businesslike thoughts, but restricted themselves to reports about themselves and demanded money, while nobody touched upon their own mistakes or blunders. But some proposals were interesting. The head of the local administration of Issyk-Kul, Saadanbekov, propos d, inter alia, to introduce a single land tax, for at present the majority of farms work on a barter basis, and the republican budget loses an awful lot. For one hectare of land 45 soms is paid—a symbolic payment! Yet this land gives grain, meat, and wool.

And if payment is increased to 300 soms? In that case, in Issyk- Kul Region alone an additional 46 million soms would be received. And it's not only a matter of money—the attitude toward land will change, the genuine owner will come onto it.

The speaker also proposed that the structure of the government apparatus be examined. In the Czech Republic, for example, there are only eight people in the prime minister's government, but here many various departments have been established, although there are corresponding ministries.

The head of Chu Region, F.Kulov, spoke about the necessity of a swift solution to the problem of private ownership of land. For if foreigners are given the opportunity they could build various industrial sites on waste land—and this would be profitable for the Republic as well.

"We are behind in the introduction of elements of the market economy," Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov stressed. "The structural reforms in industry are going slowly, and in essence there is no property market and the monopoly of manufacturers has been preserved."

The accumulation of national capital is not used: More than one billion soms in taxes have not been collected, and the population's money is not being attracted into the economy. At the same time, reserves of material valuables which are lying unused has reached the huge sum of 2.4 billion soms.

The situation in light industry and the food industry particularly alarms the prime minister. He frankly confessed that in these branches the government must bear responsibility for the fall in production.

We do not know how to work properly with foreign credits, and by 1995 we shall have to start paying off our debts. We collected a lot, but this money did not go to renewing production at all.

The prime minister proposed selecting the best from the two proposed versions, but be guided at the same time only by real figures—in each specific case.

The meeting was summed up by President Askar Akayev. He harshly criticized the draft budget. In comparison with 1994, the revenue section has decreased by 11.6 percent, whereas expenditure has grown by 25.5 percent. The president specifically dwelled on taxation policy which at present is useless. Fouche used to collect 101 percent of taxes for Napoleon, the president noted sarcastically. Why should the tax inspectorate, which cannot collect at least a decent amount of money, be preserved? He expressed perplexity at the activities of the tax police which, as he put it, have sunk in a mire of corruption and is only damaging things. It is necessary for us to improve the activities of all taxation services—and in the very shortest period of time, in order to give pensions and grants to people before New Year.

Speaking about expenditure, Akayev proposed a sharp cut in expenditure on government. Many ministers now and then go abroad on business, but there is no real pay off from these trips. We must start from the presidential service and the Supreme Council, Akayev said. There are also large staffs in local administrations. It is high time we understood that we have to live according to our means.

The president also spoke about sources of additional income. At the moment privatization is giving little profit, we are not using such methods as issuing securities and gold certificates.

Akayev called on everyone to work creatively, exerting every effort. Today we cannot sit at the seaside and wait for good weather. Initiative, activity... The main thing, of course, is not in these good words, but in implementing them through specific clear aims.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Finance Ministry was given until 20 December to draft a new version of the budget and submit it to the government.

Government Says Privatization Situation 'Uneven'

LD0912205994 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The government of the Republic has adopted a resolution on the progress made in implementing the program of denationalization and privatization of state property in the Kyrgyz Republic for 1994-1995, and on follow-up measures to develop the process of denationalization and privatization. It states that as a result of the preceding phase of privatization, the preconditions have been created for a qualitatively new system of property relationships.

At the same time, the current situation is complex and uneven. On the one hand, the irreversibility of the privatization process has been secured, but on the other, the process of setting up a securities market has been dragged out. There has been no intensification of investment activity, and a new management system has not been formed.

The mass privatization program has been implemented at too low a level, and as a result the process of exchanging the special payment units has been unjustifiably delayed, the resolution continues.

Various factors exerted a substantial influence on the declining pace of privatization in 1994. Preparations for conducting agrarian and land reforms, of which privatization is an integral factor, were also dragged out.

In addition to the reasons set out above, a number of other factors had a direct or indirect influence on the progress of privatization.

The Republic's State Property Fund has recently undertaken several regulatory, legal, organizational, and disciplinary measures aimed at further developing the privatization process.

With a view to ensuring implementation of the program for denationalizing and privatizing state property for 1994-95, the government has committed the relevant organizations and institutions to produce a number of measures which will ensure that this program is implemented in full.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Attends Islamic Summit in Casablanca

LD1212134594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A state delegation from Tajikistan led by President Emomali Rakhmanov is currently in Morocco. A conference of Islamic states is being held here, and the head of state and other representatives of Tajikistan are taking part in it.

Prime Minister Seeks Economic Support in Russia

LD1212135094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in 1100 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov has held fruitful meetings and talks with the heads of various institutions in Russia on expanding economic relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan. According to preliminary reports, agreement has been reached with neighboring republics, in particular the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, that consumer goods be provided to our republic.

During the meetings a number of mutually beneficial issues were also discussed.

Turkmenistan

President Receives BBC Monitoring Official

LD1212151794

[FBIS Editorial Report] Ashgabat TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian on 9 December carries the following article, headlined "BBC's World Information Service Wishes To Cooperate With Turkmenistan", by TURKMENPRESS correspondent K. Ballyyev, datelined Ashgabat, 8 December:

Today President Saparmyrat Turkmenbashi of Turkmenistan met with Shahrzad Ghorashian, executive director of the Central Asian section of the BBC's world information service. The head of state briefly told the guest about Turkmenistan's achievements during its years of independence and about the democratic reforms in the sphere of state management.

Mrs. Ghorashian described the areas of the work of the BBC service in spreading information in the world.

"Today the economic and political development of Turkmenistan arouses great interest in the world," Ghorashian said. "In this connection it has become necessary to report on the BBC's television and radio channels Turkmenistan's steps along the path of independence. This will be an important step toward the greater familiarization of the world community with the young independent Turkmen State. This is my third visit to Turkmenistan, and on every trip I see noticeable transformations in all spheres of this wonderful country."

Saparmyrat Turkmenbashi voiced gratitude for the interest of the BBC service in independent Turkmenistan and its readiness to establish bilateral cooperation.

Today and tomorrow Mrs. Ghorashian will visit the National Television and Radio Company, the state

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

information agency, TURKMENPRESS, and the editorial offices of newspapers and journals, and will study the possibilities of establishing mutual cooperation.

BBC advises that the conversation that took place differed in some respects from the above description.

Niyazov Justifies Wary View of CIS

LD1212171694 Ashgabat TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 8 Dec 94 p 1

[Interview with President Saparmurad Niyazov by unidentified TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA] Some of the Russian media hold the view that Turkmenistan is pursuing a determinedly independent line toward Russia within the framework of the CIS. Is this the case? What is your view?

[Niyazov] It would have been curious if this were not the case. Unification within the Soviet Union leveled out the specific features of the regions in favor of the center. It took into account neither economic traditions nor the ethnic and cultural factors. Can national sovereignty be constructed on the basis of a stereotypical model of economic social progress, especially when there are unequal starting-points?

We are unjustly accused of being against confederative concepts on principle. Since we are free to choose our future,we rely on the experiences of the past. We simply have no right to repeat the situation, for example, of 1990, when Turkmenistan was left with only 21 kg of fruit and berries per capita when it produced 60 kg. Moreover, the average was 36 kg per capita in the USSR.

Our program of economic progress is currently focused on exports. The aim of this strategy is to participate in the international division of labor as a supplier of finished products rather than raw materials. This will guarantee us significant economic growth. Suffice it to say that exports of finished products from the cotton industry will increase Turkmenistan's income more than 30 times over.

Industrialization is currently gathering pace in the republic. These are really the first steps which industrialization has taken in our country's history. So we are naturally put on our guard by the proposals made by most economists in the CIS in which one can spot the old stereotypical approach to the Central Asian republics. Such attempts to create integrational structures seem to us to be an unnecessary and possibly untenable test of a sovereignty which has not yet consolidated itself.

Turkmen independence represents a real opportunity to satisfy the people's interests by using the country's own development. In the current phase where market structures are just being born, involvement in the processes of integration is only possible given the rights of sovereign equality and relationships which take into account every model of economic progress which is chosen. We cannot see that it would be feasible for us to evolve in the old-style ruble zone; hence our concept of associate membership within the CIS framework of the CIS. Turkmenistan is not a party to the Treaty on Collective Security or other agreements on military interaction between the CIS countries. This is because our status and our constitutional standards do not approve of membership of rigid military and political structures.

We do not reject partnership. On the contrary, our policies favor the establishment of productive relations with all countries.

[TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA] The problem of rights of Russian-speaking populations outside Russia has now become a topical subject. What is the position on this issue in Turkmenistan? In particular, are Russians emigrating from the country?

[Niyazov] The rise of national consciousness is sometimes accompanied by negative trends. It is important to cut these short and to express the state's view in legal terms. The constitution of Turkmenistan provides citizens with equal opportunities irrespective of ethnic origin or creed. In addition, a law has been passed making any infringement committed on ethnic grounds a very grave crime. Almost a year has passed since the unprecedented law on dual citizenship went into effect in our country. Unfortunately, it was ratified only recently by Russia's state Duma. Furthermore, all benefits and social payments which are laid down in law for residents of Turkmenistan are maintained for people with dual citizenship, too.

There are currently about 400,000 Russians living in Turkmenistan. Every month about 3,000 of Turkmenistan's residents emigrate to various regions of the former USSR. The main reason is reunification of families and the redeployment of servicemen to new bases. There is no mass emigration, and there cannot be. On the contrary, the population of Turkmenistan is growing because of the influx of people arriving in the country from other regions to take up permanent residence.

High Turnout Noted in Parliamentary Elections

LD1112203694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1929 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Lukin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashkhabat 11 Dec (TASS)—About 98 per cent of the electorate cast their ballots in the Turkmen parliamentary elections by 16:00 local time on Sunday [11 December], according to the central electoral commission.

The final results of the elections will be announced on December 12.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Aleksandr Dodonov, deputy chairman of the central electoral commission, said that the electorate was very active.

A new parliament will consist of 50 deputies, instead of 175 as in the old one. All deputies have higher education, 11 of them are candidates or doctors of sciences. A total of 40 per cent of the lawmakers are between 31 and 40 and only seven per cent are over 50.

Forty five per cent of deputies are ethnic Turkmens, two per cent are Russians and three per cent are Uzbeks.

Results of Parliamentary Elections Summed Up

LD1212171794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1436 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Lukin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat], 12 Dec—The results of Sunday's parliamentary elections in Turkmenistan have been summed up today. According to the Central Electoral Commission, 99.8 percent of over 2 million registered voters cast their votes. A total of 50 deputies to Turkmenistan's first professional parliament were elected. They all have higher education. The first session, which is due on 26 December, will decide how the new parliament will operate.

Ashgabat Joins Islamic Development Bank

LD1212174094 Ashgabat TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 2 Dec 94 p1

[FBIS Translated Text] At the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Islamic Development Bank, which was held in the city of Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) in the middle of November, Turkmenistan became a full member of the organization.

Batyr Bayriyev, deputy economy and finance minister of the country, who will from now on be a deputy director of the Islamic Bank with responsibility for Turkmenistan, said that during the meeting, the Turkmen delegation presented the priority sectors of development of the state's economy and their effectiveness in terms of investment projects. An agreement was reached that an Islamic Bank mission would visit Ashgabat this coming winter. It is proposed that the delegation will be presented with a number of investment projects which would be funded by the bank to a greater or lesser extent.

The Islamic Development Bank was established in October 1975. Its main function is to support economic and social development in Islamic countries. The bank grants very preferential credits, including interest-free credit.

Before Turkmenistan joined the Islamic Bank it was granted free guarantees so that it could conduct a feasibility study for laying an inner lining along a section of the Saparmurad Niyazov Canal between Gazandzhyk and Gyzylterek, build several religious schools, and conduct a feasibility study for the Gaudan highway.

Telecommunications Plan to Year 2004 Presented

LD1312100994 Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 8 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A presentation of a general development plan for Turkmenistan's telecommunications to the year 2004 was held today [7 December] at the country's Cabinet of Ministers. The plan has been produced by experts from the American company Ultrapro International Inc. in conjunction with the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency funded the development of the master plan to the tune of $1 million.

Modernization of Turkmenistan's telecommunications system to the year 2004 is to be carried out in accordance with the economic development program for Turkmenistan prepared on the initiative of President Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy. The master plan defines the priority areas for developing the sector. These envisage giving the entire population of the country access to the telephone network, providing remote population centers, medical establishments, and service organizations with telecommunications, and ensuring that the main enterprises and departments are equipped with up-to-date digital communications systems. It is planned to construct digital communications stations providing access to inter-town and international lines in every regional center and in Geoktepe and Tedzhen.

The master plan also envisages measures to make communications enterprises operate very profitably. To this end, it has been recommended that changes should be made to the structure of the Ministry of Communications, as well as the introduction of two levels of license fee: low for the population and higher for enterprises and organizations.

Glen McDonald, who is in charge of the general plan, noted that the advantages offered by implementation of the project include the fact that Turkmenistan's economy as a whole will be developed, the communication lines available to the population will be considerably increased, and it will be possible to use an up-to-date digital communications system.

Representatives of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] who made speeches at the presentation noted the great professionalism of the Ultrapro consultants and affirmed that the master plan represents an important stage on the Turkmen economy's path of development. They also stressed that the EBRD intends to assist in funding the realization of the project, which will call for about $250 million.

A working group has been set up which includes experts from the Ministry of Communication of Turkmenistan, officials from the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, and experts from the European bank. By 20 December, they have to prepare terms for a tender to involve foreign investors in carrying out the master-plan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Armenia

Economic Ties Discussed With Iranian Envoy

NC1212204594 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1930 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian Prime Minister Hrand Bagratyan received the Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Hamid Reza Miqar Esfahani today.

The sides expressed satisfaction on the consolidation and expansion of bilateral ties in the spheres of trade, industry, culture, transportation, and communications and examined concrete matters relating to further developing cooperation. They stressed the importance of drafting a number of agreements between the two nations. There was agreement to begin working toward this at the technical level. They also touched upon urgent and prospective matters relating to the fields of fuel-energy and transportation and encouraging the presence of Armenian businessmen in the (?Kishi) free trade zone.

Karabakh Official Hails CSCE Decision on Peace Keepers

NC1212215994 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1646 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On December 12 the news conference of the MKR [Mountainous Karabakh Republic] Foreign Minister Arkadi Ghukasyan took place. The news conference dealt with the results of the visit of the Karabakh delegation to Budapest to participate in the meeting of CSCE Minsk Group on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Ghukasyan pointed out that the decision to establish the international security forces is the focal point of the adopted final document. As is known, Azerbajan repeatedly protested against the introduction of the international disengaging forces. According to the Foreign Minister, at present a compromise based on mutual concessions was reached between the mediators, and this will promote the progress of the peaceful process.

Karabakh Official Discusses Development, Infrastructure

NC1212215394 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1617 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 12/12/94 (NOYAN TAPAN)—On December 10 the people of Mountainous Karabakh celebrated the third anniversary of referendum held in conformity with international norms and laws. As a result of the referendum people of Mountainous Karabakh embarked on the path of independent development. "The correctness of this choice is proved by life and evident success in political, economic and military spheres, which has been attained for the passed three years is the best example of it. The infrastructure of the Republic is developing and being re-organized and restored", the First Deputy Prime Minister of MKR [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Boris Arushanyan said. According to him, the energetic system of the Republic with autonomous power supply has been completely reconstructed. Currently the problems with supply of water to Stepanakert and other regional centers are resolved. The roads and lines of communication are built. As to the agriculture and industrial and social development, the Deputy Prime Minister pointed out to a huge work on restoration, carried out during this period of time. During this time all industrial sphere of MKR was reactivated, ties with the former partners both in Armenia and other countries of Commonwealth have been restored, and on the present stage the problems of strengthening the defensive potential of the Republic are considered.

"All mentioned above was achieved at the time, when there is severe war, blockade, destructions and total economic crisis in the former Soviet Union. Today we are establishing an independent state, defending our borders, creating the necessary economic conditions for the development of the new Republic and our top priority is to be further committed to this policy based on internal stability, cooperation with Armenia and the most important thing - strong determination of Karabakh people to achieve the recognition of the Republic of Mountainous Karabakh.

MP's Protest Arrest of Member of ARF

NC1212221994 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1347 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 12/12/94 (NOYAN TAPAN)—Members of the presidium of Armenian Parliament—Kim Balayan, Seyran Baghdasaryan, Ruben Torosyan, David Vardanyan and Tigran Sargisyan—appeared with a statement in connection with the arrest and imprisonment of Hrand Margaryan, member of Armenian Revolutionary Federation [ARF] "Dashnakstutyun".

"The law enforcement bodies of Armenia have once and for all rejected from their duty to defense human rights and turned into a punishing gear targeted to oppose all political forces but Armenian National Movement", the statement runs. "The ruling powers organize new provocations and illegal actions fearing to get a well-deserved rebut of the people on the eve of the forthcoming elections. Acts of terror and violence, groundless blaming, the libel spread by the state official news media against the definite figures of the opposition follow one another. All this is fabricated to compromise the opposition, to delude the public at large and to sow the feeling of hopelessness.

One of those days, a key figure of ARF Dashnaktsutiun party, one of the founders of the Artsakh [Karabakh] liberation movement Hrand Margaryan happened to be the running victim of the law enforcement bodies in accord with the top echelons of power. Hrand Margaryan was arrested with a gross violation of the common law proceedings and aggravated with preconsidered and groundless charges.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

We, the undersigned members of the presidium of Armenian Parliament are strongly condemning such actions of the present powers, and are resolutely declaring our readiness to struggle against the arbitrary actions of the administration for the sake of the establishment of the national and democratic statehood". The collection of signatures under the aforesaid statement is going on.

Foreign Credits Cited, Improved Economy Predicted

NC1212220994 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1347 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 12/12/94 (NOYAN TAPAN)—Overall, Armenia has already received 265 million dollars in credits and there are prerequisites for this sum to reach 400 million dollars in 1995. It is possible that until 1995 Armenia will also receive a World Bank credit without an interest rate with a term of repayment within 35 years. This was reported by the representative of the World Bank Vahan Nersisiants at a press-conference held on December 9. According to him, other credits are allotted by different countries and organizations. He pointed out that if no external factors interfere, and these credits are used as they are supposed to, in 5 or 6 years Armenia will return to the living standards of 1988.

Mr. Nersisiants also said that Armenia may not dread that these sums will get stuck in foreign banks which would be profitable for only narrow circle of people.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Comments Before Attending Casablanca Conference

NC1212202994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President of the Republic Geydar Aliyev left for Morocco today to take part in the regular summit of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. Before his departure, Geydar Aliyev gave an interview for our program.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Summit meetings are important events for Azerbaijan and other states as well. Following the Budapest summit, Azerbaijan could further its successes at this summit.

[Aliyev] Undoubtedly, every summit is of great importance. The Budapest summit [of the CSCE] had entirely different goals and aims. And as I said during the summit and in the interviews I gave afterwards, the CSCE is a major organization aimed at consolidating peace, security, and stability not only in Europe but in the world as a whole. Therefore, that summit was of world importance. The Budapest summit was very important for Azerbaijan. A resolution was adopted there in connection with the situation in our republic, that is in connection with Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. And I am sure that this resolution will be consistently implemented in the near future.

Now, the ICO is going to hold a summit in Morocco. This meeting too is of great importance, because it will mark 25th anniversary of the foundation of the ICO. Certainly, when this organization was first set up it did not have as many members as it has now, but this initiative proved to be a very important step in promoting solidarity among the Islamic countries and within the Islamic world and in shaping world developments. During its 25 years, the ICO has covered a considerable distance, it has rendered great services and exerted its own efforts to ensure peace, security, and stability in the world. Therefore, we also highly respect this organization.

I am going to this conference after having accepted with great pleasure the invitation from the Moroccan King Hassan II to participate in this summit meeting. [passage omitted] Therefore, I am delighted to go this summit meeting. Obviously, I am expecting much from it. At its previous meeting, the ICO issued resolutions condemning Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. It also appealed to the international organizations in this regard. We again expect the adoption of a similar resolution.

This is not the only issue. Some 52 states are members of the ICO, and our participation in this conference is an opportunity for independent Azerbaijan to establish contacts with these states. We need this, because lots of work must be done to promote Azerbaijan all over the world and explain Azerbaijan's present situation to the entire world. Many often think that the outside world is aware of our situation and Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. This is not the case. I know, and you also have felt it while accompanying me to various countries, that the calamities that have befallen our republic are either not known in many places or it is not realized how deep a problem it is and how dangerous for world security in general and for Azerbaijan's future in particular. Therefore, we will explain these issues at this meeting, and during my bilateral talks with the presidents of the Islamic countries I will hold extensive talks on this issue. These bilateral talks will also be important in terms of establishing and developing economic relations with these countries. For all these reasons, I consider this trip to be very important. Let us wait and see the results.

[Unidentified correspondent] Let us hope they will be favorable. [end recording]

Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Rasul Guliyev, Acting Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, deputy prime ministers, ministers, and heads of enterprises and committees saw Aliyev off at Bina airport.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Leaves for Islamic Conference

LD1212095994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0740 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baku, 12 Dec—Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev left for Casablanca (Morocco) this morning. He will attend a meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization member states on 13-14 December. The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry reports that the summit will examine the issue of the Azerbaijan-Armenian conflict. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry says official Baku is counting on the solidarity and more substantial assistance from the Muslim countries in overcoming the socioeconomic problems encountered by Azerbaijan during its independence years.

Defense Ministry Denies Involvement in Chechnya

LD1212123494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku, 12 Dec—There is not a single Azerbaijani soldier on the territory of Chechnya, the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry stated today in response to a number of accusations from the mass media, including the Russian media. According to these allegations, Azerbaijan has sent a military contingent to this North Caucasian part of Russia. The ministry calls such inventions a routine provocation aimed at aggravating the already grave situation in the Caucasus and complicating Azerbaijan's relations with Russia.

The Defense Ministry's statement emphasizes: "The Armed Forces of Azerbaijan have no involvement at all in the events in Chechnya. They are facing the difficult task of protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their own country." On the other hand, the statement says, "Azerbaijan has always been and remains a supporter of peaceful resolution of all conflicts and has never intervened in the internal affairs of other states."

Chechen Minister Describes Fighting

NC1212204894 Baku TURAN in English 1458 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, December 12 (TURAN)—Today at about 14 p.m. by Moscow time [1100 GMT] several tens units of military hardware of Russian troops attacked self-defence forces of Chechnya near Dolinskiy village (25 kilometres to North from Groznyy). A storm air forces take part in the attack, TURAN was told by Minister of Press and Information of Chechnya Movladi Udugov. The Russians had a great losses in people and technics [armored vehicles], there are killed among the Chechens too. According to the same source the Chechens managed to close ways of Russians. Today Russian soldiers shoot in the Dollinskiy village a family of local farmer consisting of seven people, including three children.

Today a column of Russian troops approached the Chechen borders from the side of Ingushetiya. The Chechens managed to bring shoot down a Russian helicopter. From the side of Dagestan the tank column is blocked by local people. 58 Russian war-prisoners are captured by the Chechens. According to Udugov the situation in Groznyy is calm. All necessary defence measures are taken.

Religious Council Condemns Russian Intervention in Chechnya

NC1212182194 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to KAFKASINFORM, Sheikh-ul-Islam Haji Allahshukur Pashazade, chairman of the Supreme Religious Council of the Caucasian Peoples, has sent appeals to various international organizations, President Yeltsin, and the Russian State Duma in connection with the intervention of Russian troops in the Republic of Chechnya.

This appeal, which will be read out during the Islamic Conference Organization meeting now in progress in the Moroccan city of Casablanca, says: With its action, Russia once again proved that, contrary to what it says, it has in fact given up neither its imperialistic aspirations nor its policy of genocide against the Caucasian peoples.

Knowing history well, we are certain that if the cooperation between the Moslems and all peace-loving peoples is not transformed into a strong shield Russia will drown Chechnya in blood.

In the message sent by his excellency Sheikh-ul-Islam to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin he said: Russia could gain influence in the Caucasus through reason not force of arms.

Popular Front Pickets Russian Embassy

NC1212203894 Baku TURAN in English 1458 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, December 12 (TURAN)—Today at the initiative of Azerbaijan's Popular Front [APF] held a picket before the Hotel "Azerbaijan", where the Russian Embassy is situated. 50-60 people participated in the picket. The slogans read "Stop Bloodshed in the Caucasus", "Stop Genocide of Chechen People" and "Hands Away from Chechnya".

Head of the organising department of APF Arzu Samedov said that if provocation against Chechnya will go on, the democratic opposition [remainder of item not received]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Regular Radio Interview

LD1212181594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0613 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's parliament and head of state, by correspondent Nato Oniani, date and place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Oniani] Good morning. Last week, A Georgian delegation participated in the Budapest meeting of the CSCE member countries. You had private meetings there, took part in the plenary meetings, and made a speech, severely assessing the activities of the CSCE with regard to conflict zones in general, and in Georgia in particular. The Budapest meeting adopted a document which mentioned the notion of ethnic cleansing for the first time, and you concluded your speech with the words: Do not dash our hopes. Will you please tell us how fruitful the meeting was for us and whether the doubts expressed by some of your compatriots over the effectiveness of your participation in the meeting have proved to be true?

[Shevardnadze] Good morning. The CSCE Budapest meeting and its results are undoubtedly of major significance, and the speech made by the head of the Georgian state at the meeting also bears special significance. I have to point out that a resolution on the Georgian issue adopted after the speech, in which Georgia's territorial integrity and the efforts of the country's authorities directed toward building democratic institutions and turning toward a market economy, received full support. In addition, an appeal was made to the governments and international organizations to provide further political, technical, and humanitarian assistance to Georgia in order to resolve the current problems.

As far as the effectiveness of our participation in the meeting is concerned and in response to certain doubts in this connection, I would like to say that this was one of the most effective meetings held over the past two or three years from the political and practical viewpoints. I mean, Georgia's interests which, in fact, coincided with the interests and views of the absolute majority of the countries participating in the meeting. You were present and you could see it yourself.

Let us take just two details. The assessment of what has happened in Abkhazia by the leaders of 52 states as being ethnic cleansing, that is, as a crime against humanity. The second point is support for our proposal to hold an international conference on Georgia's problems. These two points are so important that if we deal with them properly, we will set a good basis toward settling the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict, and, provided the international conference is well prepared and we show good initiative and ability, the conference will once again turn the attention of the world community toward Georgia.

A few words about determining a strategic platform with regard to the CSCE as of an organization which might get a new form and name, and certain Euro-Asian trends. [Passage indistinct]. I mean the readiness of the Euro-Asian structure to play an active and decisive role in settling the most painful problems of our time, including conflicts. These are my general assessments of the overall results of the meeting and the specific issues related to Georgia.

[Oniani] You have attended the CSCE meetings twice as head of state, in Finland and now in Hungary. Assessments and words like separatism, aggressive separatism, radical separatism, and the like were heard much more frequently during this last meeting than before. A warning was also voiced that, in case democracy is defeated in the countries that are building democratic societies at present, dictatorship and authoritarian government will regain a stand and win. This was emphasized in your speech and some other speeches, too. With regard to the members of the CSCE—which in your words are in the transitional period from a cold war to a new European order—how deeply do you think they understand the possibility of a turn toward dictatorship and authoritarianism in case of the aggravating economic crisis and the victory of separatism?

[Shevardnadze] It would not be a great discovery to say that the analysis, conclusions, and assessments Georgia put forward in Helsinki—I mean at the previous CSCE meeting, at the 1993 session of the UN General Assembly, and at the special meeting of the UN Security Council in New York—are in full conformity with the documents adopted, unfortunately rather late, by the recent CSCE summit. I said in my speech that Europe and the world community act with substantial delay, and that events move much faster than the measures which are supposed to stop them. [passage indistinct].

As far as the danger of dictatorship is concerned, and this exists mainly against the background of the economic crisis and the aggressive separatism in almost all the countries of the [words indistinct]. We are already reaping the results of the world's indifference toward these events. [passage omitted]

Unless the whole world makes a turnabout toward this problem, we might witness much more tragic effects—tragic events. All mankind should make this turnabout because one country—I mean the former Soviet Union, or rather the countries of the former Soviet Union—are unable to emerge from this dirt, from this swamp on their own. [passage omitted] In this respect, I believe this latest CSCE meeting will play a specific role in pursuing stability.

[Oniani] A regular meeting of the coordinating emergency committee was held yesterday. The meeting discussed various issues, but the assassination of Giorgi Chanturia was of primary importance. We know that an inquiry has already been launched. In fact, you made a statement with regard to this issue by postponing your

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

appearance on television. There are various approaches. It is often said that it is virtually impossible to solve the murder and it will not be solved. Do you think the murderers will be found and punished?

[Shevardnadze] I have said it three times now, what deep impact Chanturia's assassination has had on the people, including me, and I am not going to elaborate on this issue today. Yesterday's meeting of the committee was dedicated to certain additional, I repeat, additional administrative or other measures to be adopted by the appropriate structures in connection with Chanturia's brutal killing. It is difficult or rather improper to speak about specific versions at a meeting like this. That is why we spoke about organizing a system of control and coordination. We have said what we should do and now we have to start doing the business. [passage omitted] The security service, the whole of the Interior Ministry, the Procuracy, and other bodies more or less linked to this sphere, have been mobilized in order to cast light on this tragic event.

Other issues on the agenda at yesterday's meeting were raised by the extreme circumstances currently being experienced in the country. These sorts of issues are not normally discussed in ordinary countries. But due to the fact that we have to and we do discuss them, we are proving that we are in the process of building our state. The issues discussed included protecting oil boreholes. You will not be able to find an oil-producing country that has issues like this considered by the head of state. However, since we are just at the beginning our life as an independent state, we have to spend a lot of time discussing basic issues. [passage omitted] I would like to note with pleasure that law and order have been established in the oilfields and that we can already speak about the large-scale extraction of oil and gas with the participation of our foreign partners. Two or three foreign companies are already cooperating with us. One has already settled firmly in the west. I had a meeting with representatives of another one—Kozlovski and others—the day before yesterday. I believe that work will greatly expand next year.

In this connection, I would like the radio listeners to know our forecast about the next year with regard to oil prospecting and extraction. It will not only be hopeful but also effective, and it may be that the work will develop at a substantial pace. This has been conditioned by the implementation of my edict on establishing order, and guarding oil boreholes and pumping and refining facilities. The task is being successfully implemented by the Interior Ministry forces. I have thanked them for this.

Relative order is being established along highways and railways. There is still much to be done. Safety on our highways is very important with regard to encouraging foreign vehicles, passengers, and tourists to use our roads, and this will be a very rich source of revenue toward the Georgian state budget.

[Oniani] Sorry to interrupt you, but I would like to remind you that foreigners are asking for safety on the highways. During his recent visit to Georgia Turkish President Demirel said that many businessmen asked him to phone Shevardnadze and tell him to establish order in Georgia because they want to use Georgian roads.

[Shevardnadze] Unfortunately, this is not the first request like this made by the Turkish president, and not only by him. A lot of foreign friends, who are really concerned about our well-being, request that order be established. That is why we discuss this issue at nearly every meeting, and we have already reached certain positive shifts.

Also important was the discussion of the activities of Sakenergo [Georgian power production and consumption department]. At my request, the control chamber has carried out a comprehensive inspection of its activities. We discussed it seriously and now a complete restructuring of the department is being planned. The process has been on for a few months since we set up an emergency headquarters to being preparations for the winter season. We have to complete the process now. Mr. Givi Gamqrelidze, a well known expert in this sphere and in the economy in general, has been appointed as the director of Sakenergo. He has certain ideas and we will render him overall support.

[Oniani] And the last question. I would like to reiterate that in your Budapest speech you regarded the economic crisis as a major and real reason behind a state, which is building democracy, being dragged toward dictatorship. Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Georgia has felt the decisive significance of the economy through its own experience. In the final document, the CSCE states positively assessed the reforms under way in our country. Was the past week somehow special in this respect? This will be your traditional economic review.

[Shevardnadze] I would like to keep to this tradition and I will present a brief, indeed incomplete, review of the economic situation. The formation of our state budget remains the main or rather vital task. Despite the acute difficulties we are experiencing within this issue, the republic's tax inspectorate estimates that it is possible to fulfil the plan of tax revenue in the budget by the fourth quarter of 1994. This will be the first time in the last two or three years that we have set a task like this. I am pleased to say that the task seems to be a reality. [passage omitted]

Why should this be a problem? It was planned that the realization of bread from 17 September to 7 December 1994 would provide the budget with 7.5 trillion coupons. It was a realistic plan because a man cannot get bread without paying money, and the sum has beyond any doubt been received. Of these 7.5 trillion coupons, only 5 trillion have been recorded, and of this sum only 4 trillion coupons have been deposited in the budget account of the National Bank. That means about half of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

what was expected. The other half has been used during the last three months for black market speculation. The problem is in shortcomings in encashment. The encashment is incomplete. It causes alarm that the interbank transfer of payments to suppliers takes an inadmissibly long time and it is also also alarming that some banks have a negative balance of credit resources. [passage omitted]

Another 2 trillion coupons have not been transferred to the budget in addition to what I have already said. This is also caused by delays in the transfer actions between banks.

The tax inspectorate also reports that it has become common to include the financial debts of some organizations into the budget payments, as well as to illegally exempt some of them from taxes. This results in a substantial reduction of state income and endangers the fulfilment of the income section of the republic's budget. Certain decisions made on these issues by the Cabinet of Ministers or some other structures are, I would say, unprofessional and do not comply with current law. [passage omitted]

Now, what has been happening at the Tbilisi Interbank Currency Exchange? The latest currency trade has resulted in the following: The rate of the U.S. dollar against the coupon is 1:1,422,000 compared to 1,450,000 coupons during previous trade. You can see that the positive trend continues. The bids for the Russian ruble totaled 155 million rubles, and the rate of the Russian ruble closed at 366 coupons instead of the previous 369 coupons. The trading session has once again confirmed a tendency toward the stabilization of the coupon. Maintaining this tendency will serve as an important argument next week, namely on 14 December, when the IMF Board of Directors is going to decide on allotting the first portion of the system transformation loan to Georgia. You know that the IMF and the World Bank are the organizations which will not open the account unless they are provided with concrete data and all preconditions have been met. I believe we have a precondition now.

Turkmenistan has resumed gas supplies, and in this regard I would consider my visit to Turkmenistan as highly productive. I would also like to thank Turkmenistan's President, our friend, Niyazov, on behalf of our people, because he once again rendered fraternal and friendly help to Georgia. In addition, I would like to assure him that we will comply with our commitments.

Now that the gas supply has been resumed and there is a partial improvement in the electric power supply, we have to start production, especially in the industrial sphere. Unless this happens, regardless of the size and sphere of the enterprise, we have no chance of the cooperation continuing with Turkmenistan, the main supplier of gas, next year. December must become the turning point in the revival of our industry and the economy as a whole. This will allow us to continue our cooperation with Turkmenistan in the years coming, and to sign an agreement.

'Important Information' Obtained on Chanturia's Killing

LD1212201894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As is known, with the aim of solving the terrorist act carried out against Giorgi Chanturia and Irina Sarishvili, the National-Democratic Party leaders, and identifying and arresting the criminals, Internal Affairs Minister Shota Kviraia decreed on 3 December the setting up of an operational investigation team led by the minister himself. The team held a regular meeting at the Internal Affairs Ministry today. It was stressed that officers from the ministry's chief criminal investigation directorate in charge of the struggle against organized crime and corruption, together with other services, had already obtained important information and material.

Lieutenant General Shota Kviraia, the minister of internal affairs, reminded the operational investigation team, which includes the entire leadership of the ministry, that solving this crime was of great state and political significance. The minister said that it should be taken into account that the criminals killed not only a prominent politician, but also a person who actively supported stepping up the struggle against organized crime and Mafia clans in the country. To identify and arrest the criminals is a matter of prestige for the entire police force. The minister demanded that, in addition to the operational services, other internal affairs services and every police officer be involved in obtaining useful information. [passage omitted]

Three Parties To Form 'Coordination Center'

AU1212132294 Tbilisi THE GEORGIAN TIMES in Georgian 28 Nov-5 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Parties To Create Civilized Political Space"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A trend has emerged of a rapprochement between three political parties with left-wing orientations.

On the initiative of the Political Club, a meeting of representatives from three political parties—the National-Democratic Party [NDP], the Union of Georgian Traditionalists [UGT], and the Union of Georgia's Citizens [UGC]—took place on 14 and 18 November. Proceeding from the difficult political and economic situation that has taken shape in the republic, they deemed it necessary to create a coordination center of left-wing forces. According to their concept, it should include representatives from Georgia's four leading political organizations (the United Republican Party was also invited but it did not participate in the meeting).

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

UGT Chairman Akaki Asatiani pointed out: "In the future, the situation will be far more complex. Therefore, it is essential that the parties find a common language and achieve mutual understanding." It was also the common view of the leaders of the three parties that cooperation should be directed toward strengthening Georgia's real independence.

It was pointed out that the only way of emerging from the crisis was economic reform, but this should be implemented by those forces that have a deep awareness of the essence of a market economy. The participants of the meeting considered the achievement of real civic accord in the country to be a most important condition for beginning peaceful construction aimed at overcoming the crisis.

Great attention was given to the parliamentary election in Vake rayon [Tbilisi] on 13 November. Giorgi Chanturia [NDP chairman], Akaki Asatiani, and Zurab Zhvania [UGC general secretary] pointed out that Vakhtang Begiashvili's victory became possible only because the elections were rigged. In the view of Giorgi Chanturia, this shows that, unless the future elections are conducted according to a majority system, we will have a mafia-dominated parliament and people will be longing for the current parliament.

Zurab Zhvania emphasized that it was essential to ensure a stable situation in order that the future elections can be held. It is necessary to form a political instead of a criminal space, which currently does not exist in our country.

With this aim, the unification of the efforts of three influential parties in Georgia undoubtedly deserves to be approved.

United Republican Party Outlines Conditions for Cooperation

AU1212132494 Tbilisi SAKARTVELO in Georgian 20-25 Nov 94 p 1

[Note from the United Republican Party Political Council "To the Georgian Political Club"; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Batonebo! [Georgian polite form of address]

Thank you for your invitation.

Proceeding from the particularly serious situation in Georgia, we are ready to hold talks with all parties, including those parties invited by you, on all concrete issues of importance for our country. As regards closer cooperation, we are also ready for this provided our partners will categorically support:

a) The recognition of the unacceptability of Georgia being in the CIS;

b) The rejection of the plan to settle the Georgian-Ossetian conflict by creating a territorial-political autonomy that represents a capitulation;

c) The disavowal of the documents signed on 4 April and 14 May [1993] on the status of Abkhazia and the deployment of Russian peacekeeping troops in Abkhazia.

[signed] The United Republican Party Political Council.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Estonia

U.S. Legation To Discuss Interior Ministry Aid

LD1212173494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. intends to train Estonian Interior Ministry specialists and provide assistance to the departments under that ministry. The total cost of the U.S. project amounts to $1.5 million, with the assistance program meant for Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian Interior Ministries. Now a U.S. delegation has arrived in Estonia. It includes representatives of the U.S. Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Anti Drug Trafficking Bureau, the Federal Investigation Bureau, and the Central Intelligence Agency. Together with specialists of the Estonian Interior Ministry, the delegation will discuss possibilities for implementing the assistance project.

Meri Reaffirms Stand on Treaty With Russia

WS1312090794 Tallinn BNS in English 1915 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Dec 12, BNS—Estonian President Lennart Meri, addressing the issue of ratification of the Estonian-Russian treaties signed by him and President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on July 26, reiterated his earlier position on the topic in saying that the agreements are good, although not ideal.

Meri said at a press conference in Tallinn on Monday [12 December] that although democracy included the coexistence of different political parties, the parties in Estonia should be at one over issues concerning the continuity of Estonia as a state and its international credibility. He said it was namely international credibility by which help Estonia could be defended. [sentence as received]

Presidents Lennart Meri and Boris Yeltsin on July 26 signed the agreements on Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia and on social guarantees for the retired Russian military and their family members living in Estonia.

Estonia's former government of Prime Minister Mart Laar formally approved the agreements at its last meeting in early November. Several political parties and organizations, however, have said the country should declare the agreements null and void as undermining Estonia's national interests.

The Justice Ministry is currently working on a task by the previous Cabinet to present together with the foreign ministry the drafts of necessary legislative amendments to eliminate discrepancies between the country's existing legislation and the Estonian-Russian agreements. The order to the two ministries, however, mentions no date by which the work has to be completed.

President on Chechen, 'Unfruitful' CSCE Summit

LD1212190694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1830 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn December 12 TASS—Estonian President Lennart Meri said on Monday [12 December] that the conflict in Chechnya should be settled by peaceful means.

Speaking at a press conference devoted to the results of the CSCE summit meeting in Budapest, Meri said that "the armed conflict in Chechnya, in the core of which is the people's drive for independence, should be settled by political means."

The Estonian president described the CSCE summit meeting as unfruitful. He particularly disagreed with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statement that the rights of ethnic Russians in Estonia are being infringed upon, especially in religion.

Political Reactions

WS1312090694 Tallinn BNS in English 1630 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Dec 12, BNS—Estonian President Lennart Meri at a press conference on Monday [12 December] said he hoped the Chechen-Russian conflict would get a political settlement. Meri said the conflict was connected with the application of the right of self-determination. He mentioned the latest statement by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in which Yeltsin calls for a political settlement of the crisis, as providing certain hope that bloodshed in Chechnya could still be avoided.

Estonian MPs in a statement on Monday expressed resolute protest against Russian aggression against the Chechen Republic. The statement was handed to the parliament speaker's desk by Lauri Vahtre, deputy chairman of the Pro Patria party.

"The people of Chechnya, in full conformity with the right of self-determination of peoples, have declared their country's independence. Military activity by Russia against the Chechen Republic—Itchkeria draws thousands of civilians into the blaze of war and is in blatant contradiction both with the international law and with the human rights principles. The Estonian State Assembly calls on the Russian State Duma in hope that the State Duma would end the undeclared war against Chechnya," reads the statement signed by 24 MPs.

Also the Estonian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe issued a statement saying the delegation deeply regrets and protests Russia's policies in Chechnya.

"We call upon Russia to stop its aggressive acts in Chechnya, to withdraw its troops from Chechnya and to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

begin negotiations in order to resolve the conflict from a position which respects human rights and the right of self-determination of peoples," the statement says.

"At a time when Russia is trying to convince public opinion that it has become a democratic state which respects the rights of peoples and human rights in general, such an aggressive policy is the most serious blow to Russia's aspirations to become a member of the Council of Europe. Likewise, this is a serious blow to those political forces in Europe who favor expansion of the Council of Europe," the Estonian delegation says.

Eleven members of the European Parliament in a draft handed to the European Parliament last week suggested that international aid programs for Russia be linked to peace in the Caucasus region. It was "to a certain extent thanks to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev" that the Baltic states achieved their independence without a bloodshed, the draft says. Dudayev, then a Soviet air force general, until 1991 was the commander of a division of Soviet strategic bombers stationed in Tartu, Estonia.

Thirty Estonian MPs in a bill handed to the parliament speaker's office last week called on the government to formally recognize the Chechen Republic. One of the authors of the bill, Arvo Vallikivi, said Estonia should proceed from moral principles and remind of the situation a few years ago when Estonia wanted international recognition and was "very much annoyed" when politicians in the West referred to the issue as an internal affair of the Soviet Union.

MP Jaanus Raidal on Monday criticized Estonia's policy on the Chechen issue as "toothless."

"Our foreign ministry only looks at the major western powers and trots, tail between the legs, between here and Brussels. The Foreign Ministry pretends not to be hearing what happens to a small nation in neighboring country," Raidal told BNS.

Raidal said the developments in Chechnya were not an internal affair of Russia, since the democratically elected Chechen president and the government had not determined the country as a part of Russia.

Social Democratic Party Elects New Chairman

LD1212172294 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The fifth ESDP [Estonian Social Democratic Party] congress has ended in Tallinn's Trade Union House. The party's electoral platform and lists of candidates were endorsed. Eiki Nestor was elected party chairman, to replace Marju Lauristin. Our editor Koit Luus asked the newly elected party chairman about the Social Democrats' electoral platform.

[Begin Nestor recording] Our election program, on the basis of which our electoral pact's election program will be drawn up, has been put together as a joint project by ESDP and the trade unions. [passage omitted] Two weeks ago, when we held the first day of our congress, there was a lively discussion on the subject of whether to join into an electoral pact with the moderates again. Today a decision was made. With a considerable majority of votes it was decided to begin talks to form an electoral pact with the Estonian Rural Center Party, which in essence means that by the next parliamentary elections, the moderates' electoral pact will be restored anew. And as known, it is one of the biggest groups in parliament at present. [passage omitted]

[Luus] Recently, participants of the Estonian Democratic Labor Party congress stated that they would like to be in an electoral pact with the Social Democrats.

[Nestor] Our party members at present think that we would like to clearly see the Democratic Labor Party adopting an unequivocal position about its past. Depending on what that position is, we might after that sit at the same table and discuss whether it is possible to cooperate. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Latvia

Gailis, Belgian FM Discuss Integration Into Europe

LD1212172194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Maris Gailis has met Belgian Foreign Minister Frank Vandenbroucke in Riga. Relations between the two countries and the process of Latvia getting involved in European institutions were discussed at the meeting. Particular attention was paid to Latvia's integration into the European Union.

The Belgian foreign minister stressed that the European Union wished to develop dialogue with all the states which are going to sign an association agreement. Consultations and exchange of opinions with the heads of associate member states and their individual ministers will be held regularly for this purpose.

At the same time Vandenbroucke ruled out the possibility that associate member states, including Latvia, would be able to take part in the European Union conference in 1996 as observers. [passage omitted]

Today, Vandenbroucke and Latvian representatives also signed an agreement between Belgium and Latvia on air traffic.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Belgian Foreign Minister Denied Access to Russian Base

BR1212154994 Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD in Dutch 12 Dec 94

[Article by Luc Neuckermans: "Vandenbroucke Not Welcome At Russian Base"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Frank Vandenbroucke was refused permission yesterday [11 December] to visit the last remaining Russian radar base in Latvia. The minister, who is on a trip to the Baltic states, was stopped at the gate. He had to limit his visit to the surrounding remnants of the Russian base which have already been transferred to Latvia.

During its occupation of the Baltic states, the former Soviet Union built a gigantic listening post with two early warning radars in Skrunda, 150 kilometers from the capital Riga. One of the radars has remained operational in an enclave where several hundred Russian soldiers are to remain until August 1998.

The program included a visit to Skrunda and it had been agreed in advance with the Latvian authorities that Vandenbroucke would only visit the site if he could visit both the Latvian and the Russian sections. The party was stopped at the gate by a colonel who politely informed them that he had received no instructions from Moscow. He was willing, however, to answer a number of questions from outside the complex. After a short conversation, the group—which included Latvian Foreign Minister Birkavs—returned to Riga.

Foreign Ministry Concerned Over Chechnya

LD1212160394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs made an official statement today on events in Chechnya. As the statement says, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is following the development of events in the Chechen Republic with growing concern. The fact that armed forces are involved in tackling the conflict arouses particular concern. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses the hope that the situation will be resolved on the basis of internationally recognized principles of human rights.

Counterfeit Currency Seized in Operation

WS1212133194 Riga LETA in English 1135 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, December 12 LETA—Janis Adamsons, the Interior Minister of Latvia, has made it known that the police of Latvia participated in an operation with the Polish police which resulted in the seizing of a large quantity of forged USD and Latvia's Lats. The minister explained that the quantity of counterfeit currency was not counted in the millions but measured in tons and if these bank notes had been circulated in Latvia the economy could have been ruined. The counterfeit operation was based in Poland because of Poland's highly developed printing industry.

Lithuania

Belgian Foreign Minister Arrives on Official Visit

LD1212182994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1745 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius December 12 TASS—Belgian Vice-Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Frank Vandenbrouke arrived in Lithuania on a two-day official visit on Monday [12 December]. In the evening, he will meet with his Lithuanian counterpart Povilas Gylys.

On Tuesday, the Belgian foreign minister will hold talks with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, the parliament chairman and the security minister.

The two sides will discuss Lithuania's military integration in West-European organisations and NATO, relations between Baltic states and Benelux countries, the results of the European Union meeting in Essen and bilateral relations.

The two leaders will also discuss the signing of a bilateral agreement on the protection of investments and non-visa regime for the citizens of Lithuania and Belgium.

On December 13, Frank Vandenbrouke will leave for Tallinn.

Peaceful Settlement Urged in Chechnya Conflict

LD1312110494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Lithuanian Algirdas Brazauskas the conflict in Chechnya can be settled only through negotiations. Speaking on Lithuanian radio on Monday [12 December] the leader of the country maintained among other things that peaceful means to resolve the conflict have not been completely exhausted yet.

According to Algirdas Brazauskas one should side with the leaders of the Western states who say that the conflict in Chechnya is Russia's affair which has to be resolved at a lowest cost.

The Lithuanian president regretted that the situation in Chechnya has reached such a stage when any inconsiderate action could lead to painful consequences.

Povilas Gylys, Lithuanian minister of foreign affairs, expressed his concern about the growing conflict in Chechnya and the situation in other republics of the North Caucasus where units of regular troops are in action and where there have been civilian casualties.

In an interview to Baltic News Service the minister said that according to the 29 July 1991 treaty with Russia, Lithuania recognizes Russia's territorial integrity. Povilas Gylys also said he hopes that ways will be found for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a peaceful solution of the conflict in Chechnya with no civilian casualties.

Gylys Notes Concern Over Chechnya

WS1312115194 Tallinn BNS in English 1021 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Dec 13, BNS—Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said Monday [12 December] he is concerned about the use of regular army units and casualties among civilians in Chechnya and other republics in the northern Caucasus.

Asked by BNS to comment on the situation in Chechnya, Gylys indicated that Lithuania recognizes Russia's territorial integrity on the basis of a treaty signed between the two countries July 29, 1991. "Lithuania hopes that ways to resolve the conflict peacefully and without human casualties will found," he said.

The minister said he also expects that negotiations between Chechnya and Russian federal authorities will continue to become a foundation for peaceful settlement.

Mass Meeting Supports Chechen People

LD1212205194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A mass meeting was held in Vilnius in support of the Chechen people. The rally, attended by several thousand protestors, adopted an appeal to the Chechen people, stating that the war against Chechnya will be a sentence passed on Russia itself. The appeal expresses belief that the Chechen people will not be defeated since the fall of the empire is inevitable.

A representative of the Chechen press agency, (Ani Maxeyeva), expressed gratitude on behalf of the Chechen government and president to the people of Lithuania for not being indifferent to the fate of a small but proud nation.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.